THE TIMES 30P

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Major stands by his ministers

Waldegrave and Lyell accused, but Scott says they acted in good faith

By Philip Webster and Nigel Williamson

> The Government has a case to answer which goes well beyond the personal honour of Mr Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas
>
> — *Peter Riddell, P18*

> Sir Richard set out to build a mountain over a molehill
>
> — *Simon Jenkins, P18*

Reaction........2-4
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Report, background [illegible]

JOHN MAJOR was last night fiercely standing by ministers who were criticised for deceiving Parliament and undermining democracy in the Scott report on arms exports to Iraq.

The Prime Minister let it be known that he had no intention of sacking William Waldegrave, even though Sir Richard Scott found that he had deliberately kept MPs in the dark about a shift in the policy on trade with Iraq.

He was reported to be equally determined to defend Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, who was criticised over his approach to gagging orders on information relevant to the prosecution of three Matrix Churchill directors — a trial Sir Richard said should never have taken place.

The judge said he could not accept that Sir Nicholas "was not personally at fault", although he did not question the Attorney-General's *belief* that he was acting correctly.

Both ministers insisted last night that they would not resign and claimed that the report had vindicated them — Mr Waldegrave said that Sir Richard had "cleared my name and my honour". Close aides to the Prime Minister said that Mr Major believed the two had acted honestly, sincerely and in good faith, and there was no question of his making any changes in his ministerial team.

The report's findings that no minister had acted in bad faith appeared last night to have saved them, even [illegible] judge himself at [illegible] ference in West[illegible] doubt on the gloss the Government put on the report in the minutes after its publication.

Sir Richard's report cleared the Government of deliberately seeking to send innocent men to jail by blocking the release of documents. And it concluded that no British arms reached either Iraq or Iran during the conflict between the two countries in the 1980s.

But it found that Mr Waldegrave, Alan Clark and Lord Trefgarne had prevented details of a relaxing of guidelines on defence exports to Iraq becoming public. Ministerial answers in both Houses failed to inform Parliament of the current state of government policy on the issue and amounted to "playing games".

"This failure was deliberate and was an inevitable result of the agreement between the three junior ministers that no publicity would be given to the decision to adopt a more liberal, more relaxed policy or interpretation of the guidelines, originally towards both Iran and Iraq and later towards Iraq alone."

Later in the report, the judge said that "a failure by ministers to meet the obligations of ministerial accountability by providing information about the activities of their departments undermines, in my opinion, the democratic process".

Cabinet rules stated that ministers were under a duty not to deceive or mislead Parliament and the public. "In the course of the inquiry, example after example has come to light of an apparent failure by ministers to discharge that obligation."

The unveiling of the report produced some of the rowdiest Commons scenes in years as Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, claimed that it had "totally vindicated" ministers and exposed no evidence of a Government conspiracy or cover-up.

He accepted Sir Richard's finding, however, that government policy on the export of "non-lethal military goods" had changed after the Iran-Iraq ceasefire in 1988 and MPs should have been told.

But Mr Lang came under immediate fire from Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, for refusing to lay any of the blame on ministers.

Mr Cook, who had just spent three hours reading the report, said he did not recognise the version delivered by Mr Lang and Tony Blair said [illegible] night: "There is a huge [illegible] between the report and [illegible] Government's interpretation. Their extraordinary [illegible] a damning [illegible] reason why the Tories will never be trusted again."

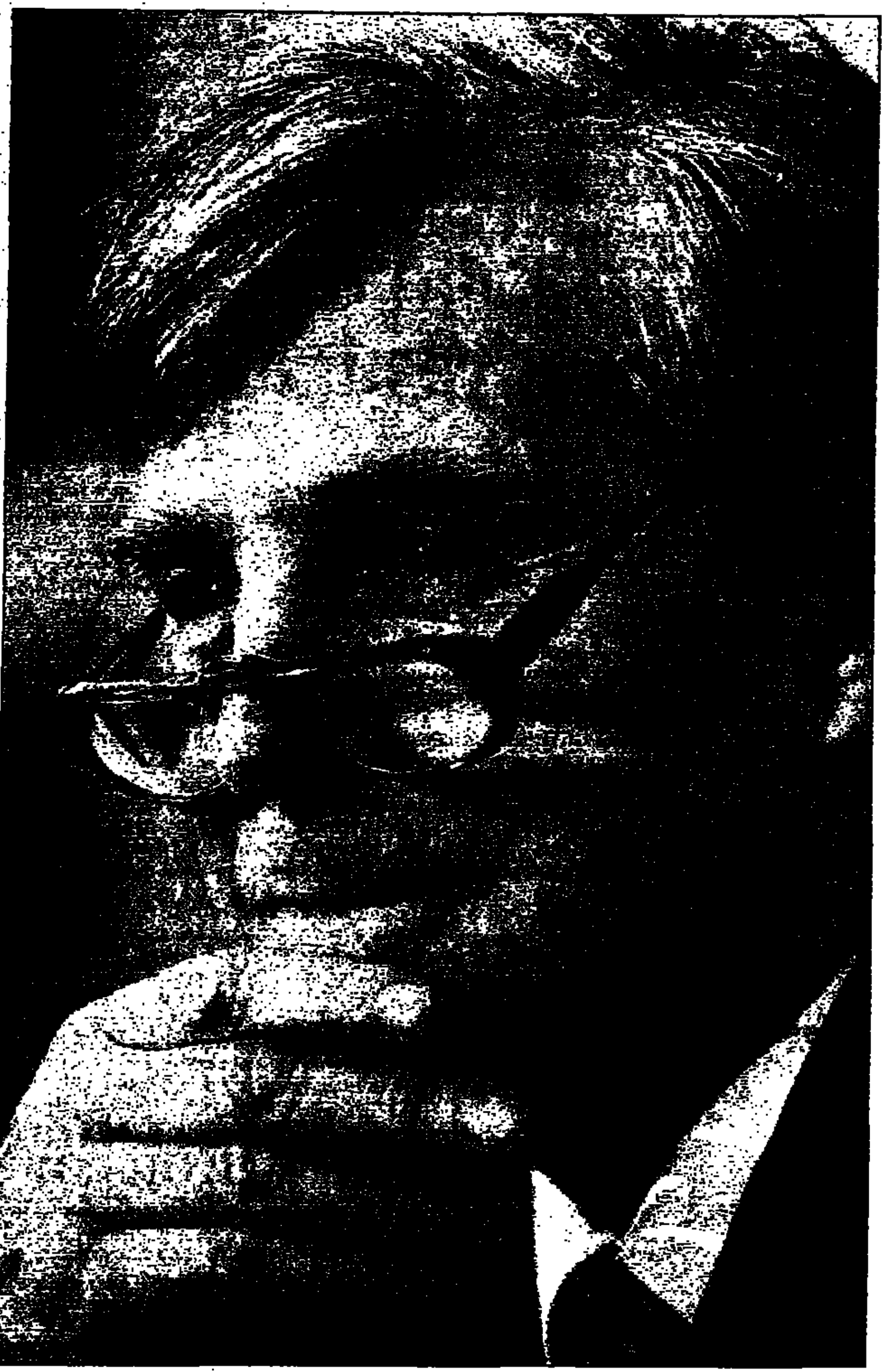
In his report, Sir Richard rejected the Government's claim that Mr Waldegrave, Mr Clark, then trade minister, and Lord Trefgarne, a defence minister, had not changed the guidelines in 1988, although it accepted that none had acted with "duplicitous" intent.

"They were in any ordinary use of language agreeing on a change of policy," the report said. Sir Richard also rejected as "sophistry" Mr Waldegrave's explanation that there had been no change in policy because no change had been announced. The word was one of those Mr Waldegrave had been most anxious to see excised from the final report after the draft was leaked last year.

The judge said that in *27* letters to MPs, Mr Waldegrave had written in terms that were "apt to mislead", although he accepted that this was not intentionally so. "Parliament and the public were designedly led to believe that a stricter policy towards non-lethal defence exports and dual-use exports to Iraq was being applied than was in fact the case," the report said.

It went on to say that while the ministers had not been duplicitous, the guidelines themselves had beenm duplicitous because of their inbuilt flexibility. And it called for an urgent rethink on the ministerial practice of not giving information on arms exports. "Is it any longer satisfactory that Parliament and the British public are not entitled to be told to which countries and in what quantities goods such as

Continued on page 2, col 6



Sir Richard Scott told questioners yesterday: "No soundbites. Read the report"

Judge plays a straight bat

By Nigel Williamson

WITH a twinkle in his eye, Sir Richard Scott yesterday played a straight bat to a press corps clamouring for swift judgments and sharp soundbites.

Asked whether anyone, including Government ministers, should resign, he said: "That really isn't a matter for me. It is a matter for Parliament." Asked if his report fully exonerated Mrs Thatcher and her government of any wrongdoing, he responded: "Read the report. The answer is in the report."

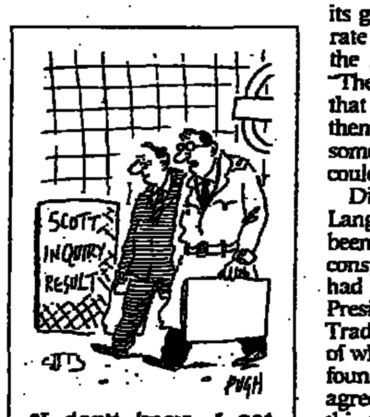
Pressed on whether he agreed with Mr Ian Lang's suggestion that his report proved there was no conspiracy and no cover-up, Sir Richard said: "I think that is a fair summary, but it is such a very express way of putting it." He added: "Any soundbite answer is bound to be a distortion of what I have taken care to express in the report." Sir Richard, who appeared to be enjoying himself hugely, adopted a studied "on the one hand ... but then on the other" approach. Yes, Mr Waldegrave had given misleading answers and written misleading letters. But his future was a matter for Parliament, not for the judge. Should the Minister apologise to Parliament? "I'm not going to advise Mr Waldegrave about manners," said Sir Richard.

Challenged on whether the Government's response, which welcomed "this clearing of its good name", was an accurate reflection of how he saw the report, Sir Richard said: "There are respects in which that can properly be said." But then that meant there were some respects in which that could not be properly said.

Did he agree with Mr Lang's claims that there had been no cover-up and no conspiracy? Well, the judge had listened carefully to the President of the Board of Trade and agreed with much of what he heard. But then he found himself "not quite agreeing with some of the things he said."

Difficult questions were brushed aside with a sugges

Continued on page 2, col 5



"I don't know, I got bored after the first 2,000 pages"

The race was on but did they get away Scott free?

Political Sketch

Matthew Parris

THE Government got off, but Scott-free has taken on a different meaning.

Mayhem ruled the Commons press lobby for ten minutes from 3.30. "*Please* behave like adults," wailed a lady supervisor, as we fought for copies of the Scott report before the statement at 3.40. In came boxes the size and weight of five bricks.

Sweating attendants struggled with these as hacks clawed their way to the counter then staggered off to rip them open. Journalists bore aloft copies of the big green documents, like an army of leaf-cutter ants carrying away their booty, each to his electronic nest.

Down in the Chamber the hush was broken by grunts of concentration and the sound of MPs pawing the index for their own names. The Chamber was packed. Then, at 3.40, Miss Boothroyd fired her starting gun. The race was on: a race to grab the advantage fast and hold it against all-comers.

It was a race Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, Robin Cook, relished. He knew there was nobody in the Opposition who could do this as well as he — indeed, few who could do it at all. Speed of comprehension; choice of ammunition; confidence of manner; command of the House: these qualities make Cook one of the best parliamentarians of his day. He struts, he frets, he thrusts and parries like a thing possessed.

As Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, commenced his statement, Cook became a demonic little ball of energy. His ginger hair all but stood on end, his brain in overdrive as he shuffled pieces of paper madly across his lap, reaching for the index, underlining here, scribbling there and pacing furiously forward and back.

But Mr Lang got off to a strong start. This cool and understated character has never been seen in such storming form. Friends call it assurance, critics audacity; let us say *chutzpah*.

It galvanised the government benches which, by the end of Lang's speech, were bawling not for their own ministers' survival — they assumed it — but for Robin Cook's resignation. Listening to Lang one might have thought Sir Richard had been appointed to enquire into the probity of Mr Cook, and reported unfavourably. Lang sat down with the Opposition subdued, the argument moving the Government's way.

Cook rose to a chorus of "Resign", and wrestled it to a halt. To Labour cries of "Ooh!" and "Aha!", he flung down quotations from a report he could only have skimmed. It was done in the impressive sub-Churchillian style Mr Cook has made his own: a symphony of dark pauses, gravelly outrage and vocal dips and dives. By the time he sat down, it was Labour MPs who were howling for more, the Tories quiet.

In the questions that followed, Lang fought back hard, rallying his own benches to an attack which soon lifted Tory spirits again, but it

Continued on page 2, col 5

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West End chaos after holdall bomb

By Richard Ford, Stewart Tendler and Tim Jones

AN IRA suspect bomb planted in the heart of London brought the West End to a standstill yesterday hours after the Provisionals confirmed their terrorist campaign against Britain would continue.

Scotland Yard bomb disposal officers made safe the suspect device which had been left in a holdall in a telephone box at the junction of Charing Cross Road and Litchfield Street, near Leicester Square. The police sealed off a square mile of the capital and cleared streets of cars and pedestrians after coded telephone warnings, which they described later as "imprecise".

The calls, which included one to the Samaritans in Essex, began at 12.30pm and appeared intended to cause maximum disruption in the West End as tens of thousands of office workers began their lunch breaks. Shops, restaurants and public houses were in chaos as the police cordoned off the area and cleared the streets of passers-by, including tourists and families on school half-term breaks.

Yesterday's incident came just hours after a statement from the IRA saying that its terrorist campaign would continue "as long as necessary", and six days after it ended its ceasefire with a huge bomb in the London Docklands. The discovery of the small device in the West End and the message from the IRA leadership dashed any lingering hope that last Friday's Docklands bomb was a one-off attack aimed at forcing concessions from the Government.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, said that the end of the ceasefire made restoring the peace process "immeasurably complex". Speaking after reports of the latest incident in London, he told Irish MPs that the key challenge facing Sinn Fein was to secure the restoration of the cessation of violence by its IRA allies.

In London, the police refused to comment on whether the hold-all had contained 1lb of semtex.

West End bomb, page 5

Inflation falls

The annual rate of inflation fell in January to its lowest level since December 1994 because of mortgage rate cuts and record discounts in the New Year sales. Headline inflation dropped to 2.9 per cent from 3.2........Page 23

Yeltsin to run

President Yeltsin announced yesterday that he will run for re-election in June's presidential poll, ending months of speculation about his future. He said a Communist victory would return Russia to the darkest days of the Soviet Union........Page 12

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هكذا فى الرجل

Report says secret agents held inadequate inquiry while Government misled Parliament

MI6 failed to relay information on Iraqi supergun

By Carol Midgley

THE Secret Intelligence Service, MI6, failed to pass on information that large metal tubes produced by a Midlands manufacturer were probably intended for use in the Iraqi supergun project, the Scott report says.

MI6 knew as early as June 1988 that the tubes, made by *Midlands-based Walter* Somers, might be used as artillery gun barrels. In what Sir Richard Scott described as a "serious omission", this was not relayed to the Restricted Enforcement Unit — a committee made up of representatives from Customs and Excise, intelligence agencies, and Whitehall departments to *monitor arms exports* guidelines.

He concluded that MI6's investigation into the Iraqi supergun project was "inadequate" and its report "misleading". Sir Richard stressed that *if* the Walter Somers information had been properly communicated, the involvement of British companies in the supergun project *would* have been known by November 1989, at the latest.

But he said there was evidence to suggest government officials suspected an "Iraqi long-range artillery project *with unusual features" might* be under way before 1989 anyway. The report said: "In the event, there is clear evidence that, some time before October 1989, government officials had had information which raised suspicion that Walter Somers' tubes were intended for use as artillery gun barrels."

"Parliament could, and should, have been told this; *the Trade and Industry Select* Committee could, and should have been told this." Sir Richard accused the Government of misleading Parliament and failing to discharge its obligations of accountability to Parliament.

Nicholas Ridley, at the time

INTELLIGENCE

Trade and Industry Secretary, announced the seizure of gun parts at Teesport in Cleveland to the Commons on April 18, 1990, claiming that the Gov*ernment* had "recently" discovered the Iraqi supergun project. Sir Richard said this was a far more elastic use of the word "recently" than was warranted by the facts.

In fact, "recently" had replaced "last year" during a meeting on the fourth draft of Mr Ridley's speech just hours before he stood up in the *Commons. "The change in the* text is consistent with an attempt to avoid criticism of the Government for not having acted sooner than it did," the report said. "It is in my opinion clear that the world 'recently' was deliberately chosen and that its use was apt to be misleading."

Sir Richard said the inquiry had "disclosed a failure on a number of occasions for prop*er use to be made of available* intelligence". Within the Defence Intelligence Staff, the report said, there was a failure to ensure that relevant intelligence received was brought to the attention of the "Defence Sales" desk. "Within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department of Trade export licensing unit *there were periods when the* relevant official was unable to read intelligence reports because he had not yet received the requisite security clearance."

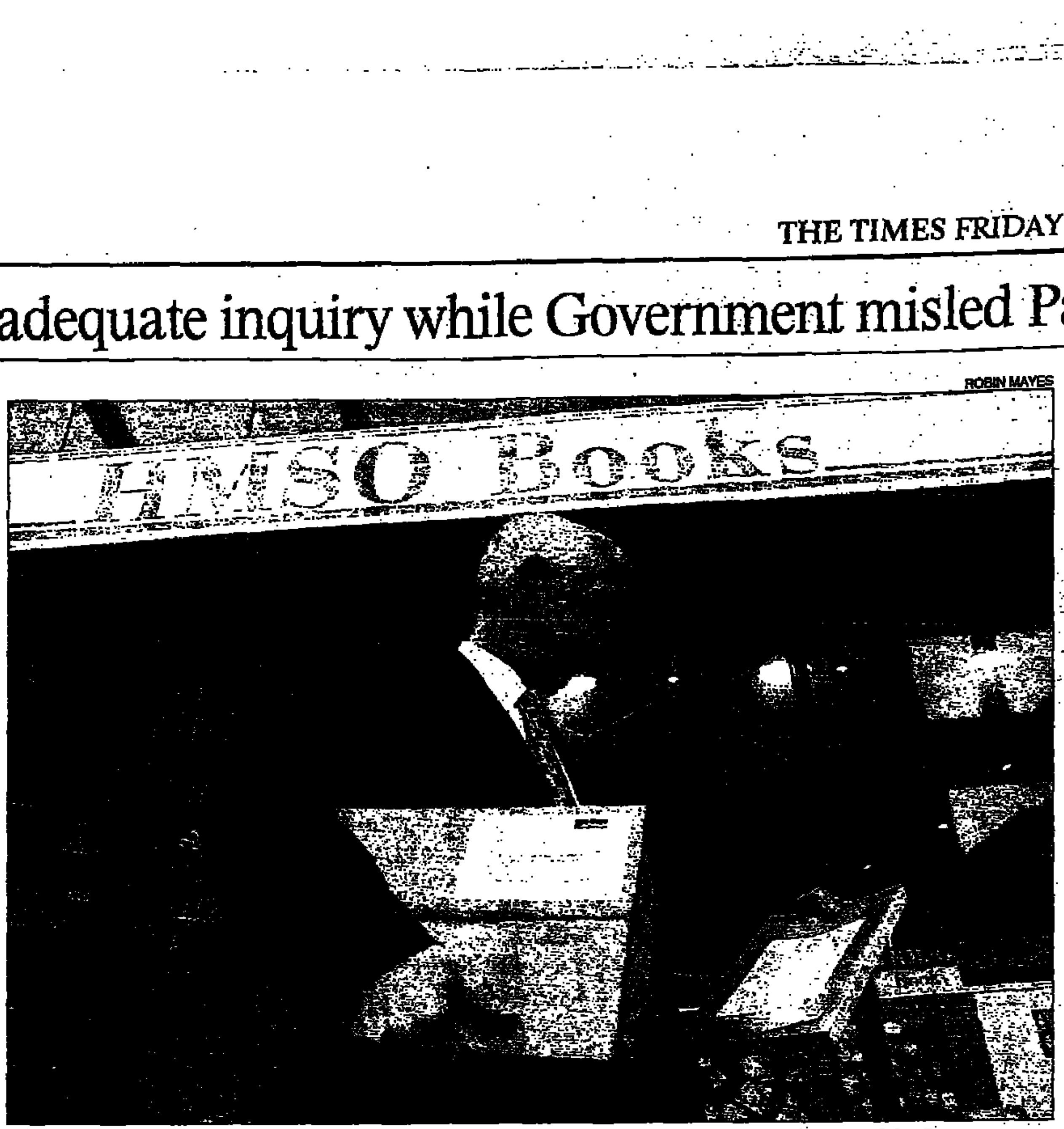
Sir Richard identified three intelligence reports — dated January 12, September 5 and October 6, 1989 — which did not reach the Defence Sales desk because of failures in the distribution system. The report referred to a problem with submissions to Ministers by the Middle East department of the Foreign Office regarding "opinions on intelli*gence matters said to be held* by the Secret Intelligence Service".

It went on to list eight examples, including deliberate non-disclosure of the existence of the Howe Guidelines on defence sales to Iran and Iraq, and answers to MPs' questions that represented "a deliberate concealment from Parliament".

Sir Richard said a failure to meet the obligations of ministerial accountability by providing information about the activities of departments undermined the democratic process. The *report urged* a comprehensive review of the practice whereby information about arms and defence-related exports need not be given by Ministers.

UN inspectors examine the Iraqi supergun in 1991

ROBIN MAYES



Paul Henderson outside the Stationery Office shop in Birmingham yesterday with his copy of the Scott report

Trial collapse blamed on feeble investigation by customs officers

By Michael Horsnell

MATRIX CHURCHILL

THE collapsed Matrix Churchill trial that precipitated the Scott inquiry should never have taken place, Sir Richard Scott says in his report.

Three senior executives of *the Midlands company* were charged by Customs with exporting large quantities of machine tools to Iraq in breach of government restrictions.

Their defence was that the Government knew what they had been doing and that Alan Clark, the Trade and Industry Minister, had "encouraged" *them to* continue trading, indicating with "nods and winks" that government guidelines had been relaxed.

In his report, Sir Richard says the customs investigation of the anticipated defences of *those charged* was, *in his* opinion, "inadequate". customs officers ought to have investigated "more rigorously" what Mr Clark told the businessmen at the meeting. "The interview with Mr Clark that preceded the preparation of his witness statement ... was neither rigorous *nor* searching," the report says. By *the time it took place*, the decision to prosecute had been taken.

Paul Henderson, the former chief executive of Matrix Churchill, smiled as he bought his £45 copy of the report at the HMSO shop in Birmingham yesterday. He said: "It has been a long wait and I'm glad to get this in my hands. *This* chapter *in my life* hasn't closed until today."

He said that he hoped the end of the inquiry would allow normality back into his life, but added: "I'll be studying the report, then I'll decide *what action I shall take*. I hope the workers won't be forgotten. I think they will fight and if I can do anything to help them fight I will. It has been very stressful." Trevor Abraham, a former director of the company and defendant, said he was pleased the report had concluded that the prosecution should not have been brought. "It vindicates the view that we expressed from the very first day of our arrest," he said.

"There is a feeling that maybe the whole matter was just a television sitcom called *Yes, Minister* because no one seems to accept responsibility for all the doublespeak that clearly has gone on within Whitehall." Mr Abraham said that the Government should bear some respo[illegible]bility for the people wh[illegible] lost their jobs as a result [illegible] trial, but he believe[illegible] ministers wo[illegible] "*cling on*" *to* [illegible]

Former Matrix Churchill workers spoke of their anger at the report and called the inquiry a whitewash. Phil Harris, 53, the spokesman for 650 former employees at the *Coventry factory, which* closed in November 1992, said: "We are not going to lay down and die. This is only just the beginning for us. We are going to investigate whether there will be compensation."

Sir Richard says the protestations that the defendants had been "encouraged" by Mr Clark was "never taken seriously". Customs investigation of the defendants' claim that the Government knew what Matrix Churchill was doing was "inadequate" because the investigators did not believe it.

[illegible] They made no attempt to [illegible] ministers or offici[illegible] Defence Ministry [illegible] Office who had [illegible]ed in decisions to [illegible] exports. Sir Rich[illegible]at if all relevant documents, especially intelligence reports, had been identified by Customs and taken into account, "prosecution would not have commenced".

Sighs of relief but some doubts remain

CONSERVATIVE REACTION

By Jill Sherman

TORY MPs appeared to give the benefit of the doubt to William Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell *last night* although some said they would reserve their judgment until they had fully digested the report.

MPs rallied around the Government shortly after being handed a crib sheet by Conservative Central Office on what their response should be on certain sensitive issues. But it was clear that many were uneasy about some of Sir Richard Scott's conclusions.

Some conceded that the Government would have had a much tougher time from its own backbenchers if an elec*tion had not been so near*. "A year ago this would have been deeply damaging to the Prime Minister," one senior backbencher said. "But with the general election in the offing it is all too close now."

Many were relieved that the report had not been more critical of ministers and had cleared them of both conspiracy and knowingly risking innocent men going to jail. However, a backbencher who has threatened to rebel when the report is debated in ten days' time said: "There are a lot of things short of conspiracy which would be totally unacceptable. I will reserve judgment on how I will vote until next week."

Other backbenchers said they were worried that Sir Richard Scott had been highly *critical about ministers' action* and their failure to take responsibility for them.

Richard Shepherd, MP for Aldridge-Brownhills, was one of the few MPs to publicly criticise the Government. He gave *no* indication how he would vote in the debate but made clear that he was unhappy with ministers' behaviour. "What is the point of parliamentary democracy if ministers deliberately fail to answer parliamentary questions because they fear public opposition?" he asked.

The executive of the 1922 backbench committee met shortly after Ian Lang's statement and agreed that the position of the ministers was secure for the moment. It is understood that some members of the executive, however, were worried that on closer reading of the report other issues might emerge. Mr Lang has been invited to address the committee next Thursday.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith, a vice-chairman of the 1922 Committee, said: "I *am* delighted for the sake of the honour of our parliamentary system that there was no question of any ministers seeking to let innocent men go to jail, nor was there any question of deliberate deception."

Supporters of William Waldegrave, were confident that he would survive. "The *report shows that he acted in* good faith," said Ian Taylor, junior minister for Trade and Industry and a former parliamentary private secretary to Mr Waldegrave.

Allies of Sir Nicholas Lyell gave a robust defence of the Attorney-General's failure to tell the court personally about Mr Heseltine's criticism of immunity certificates. *The in*formation was relayed via officials, they said.

Shepherd: unhappy with ministers' behaviour

Scott coy

Continued from page 1

tion that we *should* read the report — a little rich given that journalists had only had the five volume document in our hands for 45 minutes and the judge himself had complained about the lack of earlier access *for MPs and the media.*

One question was dismissed with "when did you stop beating your wife." Asked if anyone should "carry the can", Sir Richard said it was a convenient phrase, but wondered what it meant.

Only once was the urbane, smiling Sir Richard lost for words. When told by an over*enthusiastic journalist that* "the entire world" was listening to his words, even beneath the naturally ruddy complexion of a hunting man it was possible to detect a slight blush.

Briefly, Sir Richard got serious. Asked what he hoped his report would achieve, he said: "I hope it will assist the *movement towards more* openness in government and a reduction of what has sometimes been called "the culture of secrecy in Whitehall".

Sir Richard said his report would inevitably become "a political football ... The start of that was happening today and that is going to go on." Asked whether there had been attempts to impede his inquiry, he said: "If there were, I think they failed."

Mostly, he seemed relieved *that it was all over and his* report was now the concern of others. He apologised that he had not produced a summary to make everyone's lives easier but confessed that he had "reached a point of writing fatigue" after 1,800 pages and could not face the idea of writing any more.

He sounded almost demob *happy*, like a man about to go on holiday, which is exactly what he is doing. Today he begins a week-long break in Ireland before returning to "normal life" as Vice Chancellor of the Supreme Court.

Major stands by ministers in arms-to-Iraq row

Continued from page 1

artillery shells, land mines and cluster bombs have been licensed for export?"

At his press conference yesterday, the judge said that he had found himself "not quite agreeing with some of the things" Mr Lang had said. Asked how the Government could claim that he had exon*erated ministers from deliber*ately misleading Parliament when his report specifically used the word "deliberately", Sir Richard said: "I drafted that paragraph very carefully." The words in the report and not the Government's interpretation reflected his view.

On the Matrix Churchill case, *Sir Richard said he could* not accept that Sir Nicholas Lyell "was not personally at fault" for the failure to brief the trial prosecutors of Michael Heseltine's reluctance to sign a PII certificate withholding vital information from the defence.

Sir Nicholas had promised Mr Heseltine that his concerns would be relayed to the trial judge. "The issues that had been raised by Mr Heseltine's stand on the PII *certificate did not fall into the* category of mundane, routine, run-of-the-mill issues that could properly be left to be dealt with by officials in the Treasury Solicitor's Department without the Attorney-General's supervision," the report said.

He added: "I would not have expected Mr Heseltine, a non-lawyer, to have articulated them. But I would have expected the Attorney General to have done so. I would have expected him to recognise that important constitutional and legal issues were raised by Mr *Heseltine's stand and to have* ensured that Mr Moses, whose responsibility was to place the issues fairly before the court, was adequately instructed so that he could discharge that responsibility."

Both Sir Nicholas and Mr Waldegrave insisted last night that they would not resign. Sir Nicholas said: "The Scott in*quiry has made it clear in its* report that accusations that ministers signed PII certificates in order to suppress information and were prepared to see innocent men sent to prison are completely false and without foundation. My advice to ministers on PII was fully in accordance with the law as it then stood.

"*Mr Heseltine's* PII certificate was specially redrafted to emphasise that the final decision on whether documents should be disclosed was for the court. Although prosecuting counsel's instructions did not include my correspondence with Mr Heseltine, the system operated exactly as it was intended to do. Every document was *shown to the* judge."

Mr Waldegrave insisted that Sir Richard had cleared *him of* "lying to Parliament or intending to mislead anyone in letters I signed. He also proves beyond doubt that I did not connive in allowing machine tools for arms manufacture to go to Iraq; he says I would have *stopped them* going if certain intelligence reports had reached me. I am grateful to Sir Richard for listening carefully to what I said to him, above all for accepting my good faith.

"I have no reason to resign at all because he has cleared my name and my honour and that is the central thing."

Lang steals Labour thunder

Continued from page 1

never quite regained the force it had before Cook rose.

The Liberal Democrats' Menzies Campbell questioned shrewdly. Labour's Gerald Kaufman, who had now found himself in the index, intervened to good effect.

The former Chief Whip, Sir Timothy Renton, found so many references to himself that he had to summarise. The action settled down to the familiar ding-dong, tension having passed its high-water mark.

Ministers survive. But if Lang had stumbled during his first, critical quarter-hour, or if Cook's counter-attack had failed (as Neil Kinnock, after Westland, once failed) things would be different. They are now set, and no broadcasting studio will change them.

The Chamber does matter.

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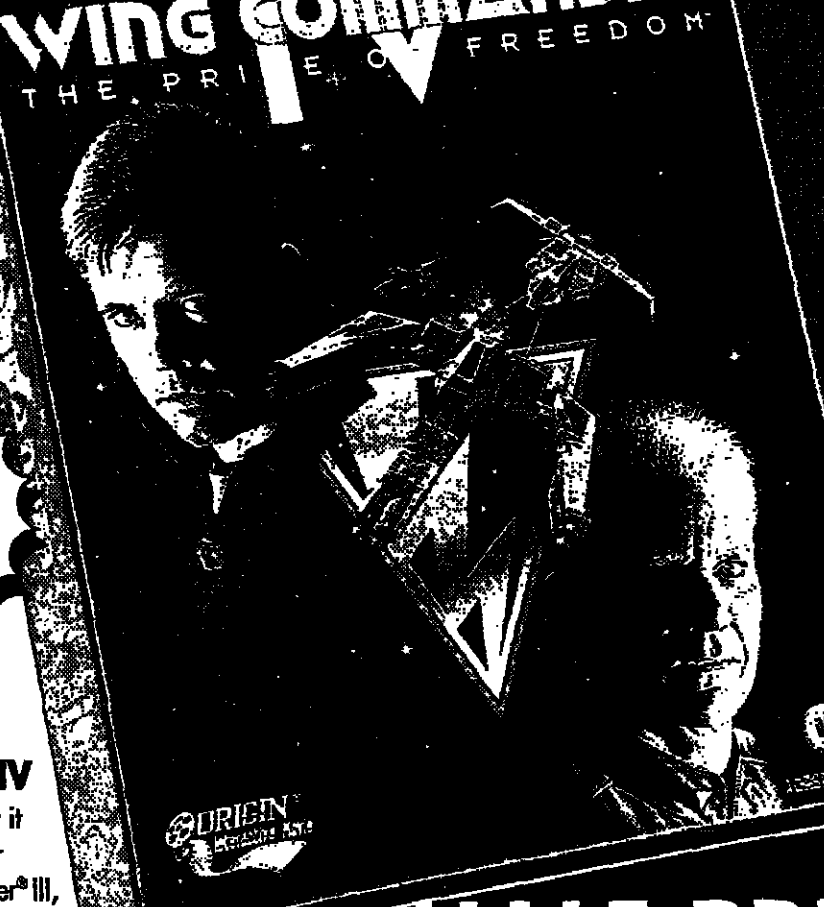

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minister
his absolu

Jet sales memo
revealed bias
towards Iraqis

Innocent who

'The inquiry has cleared my name and my honour. I am grateful to Sir Richard'

No resignation as minister hails his absolution

By Andrew Pierce

THE Cabinet minister most widely expected to face calls for his resignation, William Waldegrave, was cleared by the report of deliberately misleading Parliament.

An ebullient Mr Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said in a series of interviews last night that he had never regarded his role as a Foreign Office Minister in the arms-to-Iraq affair as a resignination issue.

"He has cleared my name and my honour," he said on ITN last night. "Sir Richard has said in clear terms I had no intention to mislead."

The Scott report absolved Mr Waldegrave of any "duplicity" in the decision to relax the rules after the Iran-Iraq conflict. Sir Richard said that he was struck by the sincerity of the minister's evidence.

Mr Waldegrave said in a prepared statement: "Sir Richard Scott clears me of lying to Parliament or intending to mislead anyone in letters I signed. He also proves beyond doubt that I did not connive in allowing machine tools for arms manufacture to go to Iraq: he says I would have stopped them going if certain intelligence reports had reached me. I am grateful to Sir Richard ... for accepting my good faith."

The report said that letters had been signed by Mr Waldegrave which stated that there had been no change in the arms sale policy. It states: "Mr Waldegrave knew, first hand, the facts that, in my opinion, rendered the 'no change in policy' statement untrue. I accept that, when he signed these letters, he did not regard the agreement he had reached with his fellow ministers as having constituted a change in policy towards Iraq.

"In his evidence to the inquiry, he strenuously and consistently asserted his belief, in the face of a volume of, to my mind, overwhelming evidence to the contrary, that

[redacted]

policy on defence sales to Iraq had, indeed, remained unchanged. I did not receive the impression of any insincerity on his part in giving me the evidence he did. But it is clear, in my opinion, that the policy on defence sales to Iraq did not remain unchanged."

During his evidence Mr Waldegrave had said that Britain had been deceived into exporting equipment capable of manufacturing armaments in breach of export guidelines. These had never been covertly changed, he said. "After the ceasefire the Foreign Secretary [Sir Geoffrey Howe] authorised an approach to the guidelines which allowed a little increased flexibility in the control of industrial equipment such as machine tools.

"It did not extend to weapons of war. Full hindsight shows us that the Iraqis deceived us about the end use to which some of these exports were being put."

A key aspect of the revised guidelines, the report said, was to release from the embargo equipment whose military value was primarily defensive. "To describe this revised formulation as no more than an interpretation of the old, is, in my opinion ... so plainly inapposite as to be incapable of being sustained by serious argument," the report said.

The report refers to letters from Mr Waldegrave which said ministers agreed in February 1989 to interpret the export guidelines more flexibly. They had decided to refuse orders for non-lethal equipment if it could be of significant assistance in warfare in breach of the ceasefire.

Sir Richard said that the terms of Mr Waldegrave's letters were likely to mislead their readers about the policy on export sales to Iraq. "Mr Waldegrave was in a position to know that that was so, although I accept that he did not intend his letters to be misleading and did not so regard them."

PETER NICHOLLS

William Waldegrave arrives for a Cabinet meeting in Downing Street yesterday

Sacrificial lamb refuses to be led to slaughter

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

LYELL

THE Attorney-General seized on the Scott report last night as vindication of his role in advising ministers to withhold crucial documents from defendants in the Matrix Churchill trial.

Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the minister most expected to be savaged, said the report made clear that accusations "that ministers were prepared to see innocent men sent to prison are completely false and without foundation". The Attorney-General also rejected Sir Richard's criticisms of his view of the law in a move designed to stave off any calls for his resignation.

He said: "My advice to ministers on public interest immunity was fully in accordance with the law as it then stood." That advice, he added, was supported by court judgments and the opinion of three leading lawyers.

Sir Richard Scott's report is strongly critical of Sir Nicholas on two grounds: first, his view that ministers were under a duty to sign public interest immunity certicates so as to prevent disclosure of documents in the Matrix Churchill trial; and second, that such claims for whole classes of documents were justified in criminal trials.

The claims rested "on shaky ground", the report says. The Attorney-General's view "had no authoritative precedent in a criminal trial". Sir Richard adds that some of the documents covered by the certificates "would not in my view have been warranted by any of the judicial authorities".

"The proposition that a minister is ever under a legal duty to claim personal interest immunity in order to protect documents from disclosure to the defence nothwithstanding that in the minister's view, the public interest requires their disclosure to the defence is, in my opinion, based on a fundamental misconception of the principles of PII law."

He concludes: "In my opinion, the view of the law on which the making of the PII class claims in the Matrix Churchill case was based was unsound" and without "clear prior judicial authority".

Sir Nicholas said the findings were in "direct conflict" with the accepted view. "My advice to ministers on PII was entirely in accordance with the law as it then stood.

'Ministers had a duty to claim PII whenever there was a public interest in non-disclosure of a document. It was for the court to weigh that public interest against the interests of justice and to decide on what documents should be disclosed."

Sir Nicholas, along with William Waldegrave, had been widely predicted to become the sacrificial lamb of the inquiry. Last night, with the strong backing of the Cabinet, it looked as if he would survive.

Lyell: said he had been vindicated by report

It was Sir Nicholas who, as the Government's chief law officer, insisted that ministers had not a choice but a duty to sign public interest immunity certificates to withhold evidence which turned out to crucial to the defendants in the Matrix Churchill trial.

A quiet unassuming man, Sir Nicholas had been fingered by his more politically combative colleagues as the obvious scapegoat. But he maintained throughout that he acted throughout in good faith, in a unswerving belief that what he did was correct.

Home Secretary was concerned over security services

By Andrew Pierce

[redacted]

KENNETH CLARKE, whose decision to sign public interest immunity certificates swayed a reluctant Michael Heseltine into the course of action, had acted to protect the national interest, the Scott report concluded.

While the report criticises the use of the certificates, which have been called gagging orders, the ministers had acted in good faith when they signed them. The report criticises the legal advisers who failed to give the proper advice to Mr Clarke, who was then Home Secretary.

The report said, [illegible] he had signed two [illegible] bombs [illegible] he thought he [illegible] Camden. [illegible] evidence [illegible] four [illegible] services. He [illegible] of discretion [illegible] cates because of the public interest in keeping the workings of MI5 and MI6 secret. Mr Clarke told the inquiry: "It was then open to the judge to decide whether was a competing public interest."

But Sir Richard's report said: "He [Mr Clarke] did not have sufficient details of the likely lines of defence [at the Matrix Churchill trial] to consider exercising the discretion. He was content to leave the defendants' interests in obtaining disclosure to be dealt with by the judge."

As for the sensitivity of the documents, which the legal advisers wanted withheld from the court, the report said that Mr Clarke's legal adviser wrote: "It was not necessary for the Home Secretary to read every document in the bundles but he might like to glance at them so as to get their flavour."

The report said Mr Heseltine, then President of the Board of Trade, was "uneasy about signing the certificates unless the Home Secretary was content". Mr Clarke was again advised that disclosure of the documents was against the national interest. "Mr Clarke marked the submission 'content' and signed the certificate accordingly."

Mr Clarke, speaking on Sky Television, said that Opposition claims of a conspiracy to put innocent men behind bars had been exposed as "bunkum". "There is no part of this report which attacks the integrity of a minister." Mr Clarke conceded that, in hindsight, the Matrix Churchill prosecution should not have been brought. But Sir Richard's similar conclusion had also been "made with hindsight", he said.

Jet sales memo revealed bias towards Iraqis

By Jonathan Prynn

[redacted]

JOHN MAJOR should have known that the Government's stance towards defence equipment sales to Iran and Iraq had secretly shifted after he was briefed on the sale of Hawk jets to Iraq on July 25, 1989, the Scott report concludes.

The official brief, received during Mr Major's first days as Foreign Secretary, told him that "since the ceasefire in August 1988, the guidelines have been applied with greater flexibility for Iraq". It added: "Our public presentation of our policy on arms supplies to both countries has, however, stayed broadly the same."

Sir Richard says that "this briefing did, as it seems to me, put Mr Major on notice that Iraq was receiving more favourable treatment than Iran so far as export licensing of defence equipment was concerned, a state of affairs that in my opinion calls into question a continuing stance of impartiality."

The report absolves Mr Major from any knowledge of the wider implications of the wording of the briefing. As a result, letters to MPs signed by Mr Major stating that there had been no changes in the Howe guidelines were not deliberately misleading.

"I do not doubt Mr Major's evidence that he signed the letters believing the statements they contained to be accurate, but I do not accept that they were in fact accurate," the report concludes.

In his evidence to the Scott inquiry in January 1989, Mr Major had insisted that the Hawk briefing had contained only a "fleeting reference" to the guidelines and had not spelled out what they were or whether they had been changed.

At no time during his spells as Chancellor, Foreign Secretary or Prime Minister had he been involved in the "consideration, amendment or interpretation" of the guidelines, he told Sir Richard.

"I have no reason to believe, on the advice I received at the time, or the documentation I have subsequently seen, that there was any shift away from the intrinsic impartiality in the 1984 guidelines," he said.

The report refers to Lord Howe's justification for withholding information about the relaxation of the guidelines as the impact on foreign relations. Sir Richard doubts that this was "sufficient to justify the repeated provision to Parliament and, via the letters to MPs, to members of the public, of information about government policy that was by design incomplete and in certain respects misleading".

Prime Minister was not told of policy change

By Jonathan Prynn

[redacted]

MARGARET THATCHER was not told about ministerial changes to the Howe guidelines on export sales to Iran and Iraq, even though she had specifically asked to be kept informed, the Scott report concluded.

She had demanded to be "kept very closely in touch at every stage and consulted on all relevant decisions". There were three junior ministers concerned but they passed nothing to Downing Street about the new approach.

As a result, she inadvertently gave an "inaccurate and misleading" answer to a parliamentary question from a Labour MP on defence sales to Iraq in April 1989.

The then Prime Minister's answer, drafted by the DTI, was that "the Government have not changed their policy on defence sales to Iraq" and that export licences would be considered on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the 1985 guidelines.

The report exonerated Lady Thatcher of any knowledge of the change of policy between December 1988 until a July 1989 paper on the sale of Hawk jets to Iraq, as she "had not been kept abreast of the change".

Scott added: "I am satisfied that prior to her reading of the OD paper, the Prime Minister had not been informed of the ministers' agreement and that she had been neither consulted nor kept in touch as she requested."

Yesterday's report also appears to back Lady Thatcher's insistence, during her spoken evidence to the inquiry in December 1993, that she had seen none of the documents that related to the shift of policy.

"Most of the documents before me I have never seen, I was concerned with the big issues," she told Sir Richard in her evidence.

She also said that the guidelines had not been "strict law" and that they would have had to be applied by officials "according to the relevant circumstances."

A letter written by Lady Thatcher in August 1989, after she had been briefed on the Hawk project, also insisted that the policy of impartiality between Iran and Iraq had been maintained.

However, although she "can be said to have been placed on notice" about the more liberal approach to Iraq, "I do not think Mrs Thatcher can be blamed" if she did not recall the implications of the July 1989 briefing paper, the Scott report said.

Lady Thatcher would not comment on the findings of the report last night.

Innocent who pointed the finger

By Alice Thomson
Political Reporter

[redacted]

MICHAEL HESELTINE emerges with his reputation fully intact. According to the Deputy Prime Minister, who gave a dramatic account to the Scott inquiry, he was the only minister to express serious reservations about signing an immunity certificate. The report makes clear that he was more scrupulous than the rest and signed only when forced by the Attorney-General. It says: "Mr Heseltine was of the clear view that the DTI documents ought not to be withheld from the defence."

He originally refused to sign because it would look like a government "cover-up". He said he believed the defendants in the Matrix Churchill case were entitled to the papers and it would have been "terrible" if innocent men went to jail because the papers were not disclosed. Very reluctantly, the report says, Mr Heseltine — as Trade President — signed a heavily watered-down PII certificate. Later he said that he would resign if strongly criticised in the report.

The fact that he queried the order embarrassed Kenneth Clarke, Malcolm Rifkind and the Foreign Office Minister Tristan Garel-Jones, who all claimed PII for departmental papers. If Mr Heseltine found it necessary to raise doubt about withholding documents, why not the rest? Mr Heseltine made no attempts to water down his statement to Sir Richard and he heavily implicated Sir Nicholas Lyell.

The Westland affair — featuring the infamous leak of advice to Mr Heseltine from a Solicitor-General — may have given him a certain view about the workings of the law officers. His stance was the first step in his comeback as a possible contender to John Major after a misjudgment over pit closures. His performance in the dock showed he was a survivor in the Whitehall jungle.

As Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Heseltine has been forced to defend the Government's position, repeatedly saying that it would not be obliged to follow the Scott recommendations in the same way it largely followed those of the Nolan inquiry into standards in public life.

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Grand Orient of Italy of Palazzo Giustiniani

From Villa "Il Vascello" in Rome, 16th February 1996

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Scott report: Commons hears Tories fight off resignation calls

Lang and Cook clash over who is guilty of what

JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE three-year inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair by Sir Richard Scott "totally vindicated" the role of Government ministers, MPs were told yesterday.

In a statement to the Commons, Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said that Sir Richard proved there had been "no conspiracy and no cover-up". He said: "This conclusion gives the lie to the many scurrilous comments made by Labour MPs and by many in the media."

Amid chaotic scenes, his statement was repeatedly interrupted by Labour MPs who waved copies of the report and shouted "Guilty" at the Tory front bench.

Mr Lang said the main reason for setting up the inquiry was the "grave allegation" that ministers, by signing public interest immunity certificates (PIIs), had conspired in a way which could have sent men to prison.

"Sir Richard Scott's report demonstrates that this allegation is false and without foundation," he said. "Sir Richard Scott concludes, after over three years of painstaking investigation, that all ministers who signed PII certificates did so without impropriety. There is no criticism of them for so doing. There was no attempt to gag. There was no conspiracy to jail innocent men."

Mr Lang said that for three years several ministers had endured "repeated abuse and attacks upon their honour and integrity of the most offensive and unpleasant nature over their signing of the PII certificates. They now stand wholly vindicated by the report."

The Government had followed well-established case law, backed up by independent legal advice, that ministers both had a duty to sign PII certificates and that such certificates were applicable in criminal cases.

"The Attorney-General took advice on this from independent and eminent counsel, and the Government's handling of PII was endorsed by three defence counsel in the Matrix Churchill trial.

"In his report, Sir Richard Scott does not in any way question the personal integrity of the Attorney-General. He does, however, express criticism of the adequacy of the instructions to prosecuting counsel conveying the views of the then President of the Board of Trade [Michael Heseltine], and in particular that the Attorney-General should personally have supervised them.

"It must be a matter of opinion whether that was something which the Attorney-General could reasonably have been expected to do. Sir Richard does, however, accept the genuineness of the Attorney-General's belief that it was not.

"The Government remains firmly of the view that the advice given at the time to ministers by the Attorney-General was correct and there is no doubt he acted throughout with complete propriety and integrity."

On the key question of whether the Government's guidelines on the sale of military-related goods to Iran and Iraq had changed, Mr Lang said: "Richard Scott concludes that, following the ceasefire in 1988 but not before, Government policy towards the export of non-lethal military goods changed in a way which, he believes, should have been drawn to the attention of the House.

"Both ministers and officials believed at the time that they were applying policy in a way which remained within the existing guidelines, and Sir Richard expressly accepts that they were sincere in doing so.

"However, he does not agree that they were correct in their belief. On this basis, he concludes that a number of ministers' letters and answers to parliamentary questions were inaccurate because they restated what ministers understood to be the policy but which Sir Richard believes, in retrospect, had changed.

"The crucial issue is whether these junior ministers intended to mislead this House and the country. Sir Richard gives an unequivocal answer on this. He accepts that the ministers believed they were avoiding a formal change to the guidelines and that, in holding this belief, they had, to quote his words, 'no duplicitous intention'."

On the specific case of William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, who at the time was a junior Foreign Office Minister, Sir Richard believed that the minister did not intend his letters to be misleading and did not so regard them.

To Tory cheers, Mr Lang declared: "Mr Waldegrave is therefore absolved of the charge that he intended to mislead members of this House or anyone else."

Mr Lang admitted that there were lessons to be learnt from the Scott report and said the Government would consider its recommendations.

For Labour, **Robin Cook**, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, challenged the Prime Minister to sack ministers whom Sir Richard felt had failed to discharge their obligations of ministerial responsibility to the Commons. He said that the Scott report clearly proved that ministers changed guidelines on defence sales to Iraq and repeatedly refused to admit it to Parliament.

Mr Cook asked: "Are you really going to ask the House to accept a report that over five volumes demonstrates how this Government misjudged Saddam Hussein, misled MPs and misdirected the prosecution, and then tell us that none of them is going to accept responsibility for getting it wrong?

"Will he tell us whether the Government will dismiss those ministers who in the opinion of Sir Richard failed to discharge the obligations of ministerial accountability to the House? Will you take those steps which are now essential if they [the Government] are to be trusted in office?"

After putting a series of questions to Mr Lang, Mr Cook said: "I warn you, if you fail to answer these questions, this Government will forfeit any right to remain in office.

"You have just made a statement in which you lay blame on the Opposition, blame on the official advice, blame on the system, but accept no blame for ministers. I have to say the public outside will not find that a credible response to such a serious report.

"I have spent the last three hours studying this report, and it fully vindicates our two central charges: that ministers changed the guidelines on the defence sales to Saddam Hussein; and that they repeatedly refused to admit that either to Parliament or to the courts."

Mr Cook said that Mr Lang had accepted what many government witnesses at the Scott inquiry tried to deny: that the guidelines on defence sales were changed and that the Government failed to inform Parliament of the change.

"Now you have accepted that conclusion, will you accept Sir Richard's conclusion that this was deliberate and the result of three ministers agreeing to give it no publicity? The reason they gave it no publicity was because they didn't want the public outrage that would greet it."

Mr Cook challenged Mr Lang: "Are you really going to ask us to accept a report that shows that the current Treasury Chief Secretary [Mr Waldegrave] sent 27 letters to MPs which were misleading and which he was in a position to know were misleading, and he remains in office as if this report had never been published?

"Are you really going to ask us to accept a report which show that the Attorney-General [Sir Nicholas Lyell] wrongly advised ministers, failed to tell the court that at least one minister signed under protest and then say he can stay in office?"

Mr Cook concluded: "This report reveals the price Britain pays for a culture of secrecy in government. It documents how ministers changed th guidelines but were more w ried that MPs and the p might find out than what Saddam Huss do with those

To Tory cheers, Mr Lang challenged Mr Cook to apologise or resign. "For the last three years, week after week, month after month, you have fed the House and the press and the public a sour stream of invective, innuendo and invention," he said. "It has been one of the most odious campaigns of manipulation and black propaganda that the House will be able to recall."

For the Liberal Democrats, Menzies Campbell said it was "blindingly clear" from the report that "the Government stands condemned . . . of deliberately failing to inform members of Parliament and Parliament itself of a fundamental change in policy and a consistent failure to discharge its constitutional responsibilities."

He said the Attorney-General had given "wrong legal advice" on the PIIs. "How can the House and the public have confidence in him? How can anyone have confidence in the present Chief Secretary to the Treasury when . . . his views are rejected by Sir Richard Scott as 'misleading', 'not corresponding with reality' and 'sophistry'?"

Mr Lang replied: "What you are asking the House to believe is that Mr Waldegrave, along with two other ministers, single-handedly changed government policy without telling his own Secretary of State, against the advice of many of his officials, sustained that change for several years with no-one knowing. That is palpably incredible and Sir Richard Scott accepts that."

Ian Lang, flanked by John Major and Michael Heseltine, delivering his statement to the Commons yesterday

Cook: called on Major to sack ministers

Woman who sailed on Titanic dies at 91

Survivors of the *Titanic* disaster paid tribute yesterday to Eva Hart, who has died aged 91. Miss Hart is pictured right shortly after she and 704 other people were rescued when the liner went down on her maiden voyage in 1912. Miss Hart, from Chadwell Heath, east London, who died on Wednesday, was seven when the supposedly unsinkable liner hit an iceberg 500 miles off Newfoundland. Her father was one of the 1,523 who died and she was determined that the wreck should be respected as a marine grave to honour his memory. Her autobiography, *Shadow of the Titanic*, was published recently. She was appointed MBE in 1974. The disaster's youngest survivor, Millvina Dean, 84, said: "Miss Hart was an extremely nice woman and I shall certainly miss her". Edith Haisman, 99, from Southampton, the oldest survivor, expressed her sympathy to Miss Hart's family.

Vegetarian's brain tested

Tests are being carried out on the brain of Peter Hall, 20, a suspected victim of the human counterpart of "mad cow" disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy. Mr Hall, of Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, died after an illness during which he showed symptoms associated with Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease. Although Mr Hall became a vegetarian in 1992, his parents believe he could have been exposed to infected meat as a child.

Driver gets five years

The son of a wealthy businessman who killed two people in a road accident was sent to a young offenders' institution for five years yesterday after he admitted causing death by dangerous driving. Neil Hebson, 19, from Newcastle upon Tyne, was doing 70mph in a 40mph zone when he hit a pedestrian. His girlfriend, a passenger in his car, also died. Hebson, who was over the drink-drive limit, was banned from driving for seven years by Leeds Crown Court.

Body found in lake

Detectives are interviewing a man in connection with the murder of Jeanette Broadhead, 23, whose naked body was found face down in a lake in Heaton Park, Manchester, on St Valentine's Day. Miss Broadhead, from Rusholme, Manchester, died from "pressure to the neck", according to detectives. Police said she had facial injuries but had not been sexually assaulted. Detective Superintendent Roy Rainford said she was not a prostitute.

New play up to scratch

The actor Tom Conti is giving audiences the chance to professional critics before his revival of Neil Simon's comedy, *Chapter Two*, at the Gielgud Theatre in bury Avenue on Monday. During preview nces he has been handing out scratchcards for ers to register their opinions of the play. The be published in newspaper classified theatre columns when the show opens.

Presidemp the resultantic life for the redistribution warfare

Trawlers net submarine

A German submarine became entangled in the fishing nets of two British trawlers off the South West of England yesterday (Michael Hornsby writes). The incident occurred 15 miles south of Plymouth breakwater around noon, less than a month after the adoption of a new safety code designed to prevent such accidents. There were no injuries and no damage was sustained by any of the vessels, the Ministry of Defence said.

Asda fined £40,000

The supermarket giant Asda was fined a total of £40,000 yesterday after children found objects including an insect and a screw in food bought at its instore bakery in Bradford. A boy aged 12 found a screw in his mouth after eating bread pudding from the store. A seven-year-old girl saw an insect in bread and a nine-year-old boy found plastic in a hot-cross bun. Asda admitted seven counts and said the matter was regrettable.

Bomb hero suspended

Chief Inspector Michael Parks, who led a dazed Margaret Thatcher to safety from the ruins of the Prime Minister's hotel after the IRA bombing in Brighton 12 years ago, has been suspended indefinitely while he is investigated over "administrative matters", Sussex Police said. The inquiry is believed to centre on the running of a police welfare fund. After rescuing Baroness Thatcher, he returned to the wreckage to help Leon Brittan and Douglas Hurd.

Statue for soldier

A forgotten hero of the Battle of Arnhem in 1944 could become one of the few common soldiers to be commemorated by a statue. Lance-Sergeant Jack Baskeyfield, a butcher's boy from Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, won a posthumous VC. The 21-year-old paratrooper knocked out three German tanks before being killed. Local residents are trying to raise £37,000 to erect a statue of Baskeyfield and have already raised nearly £7,000.

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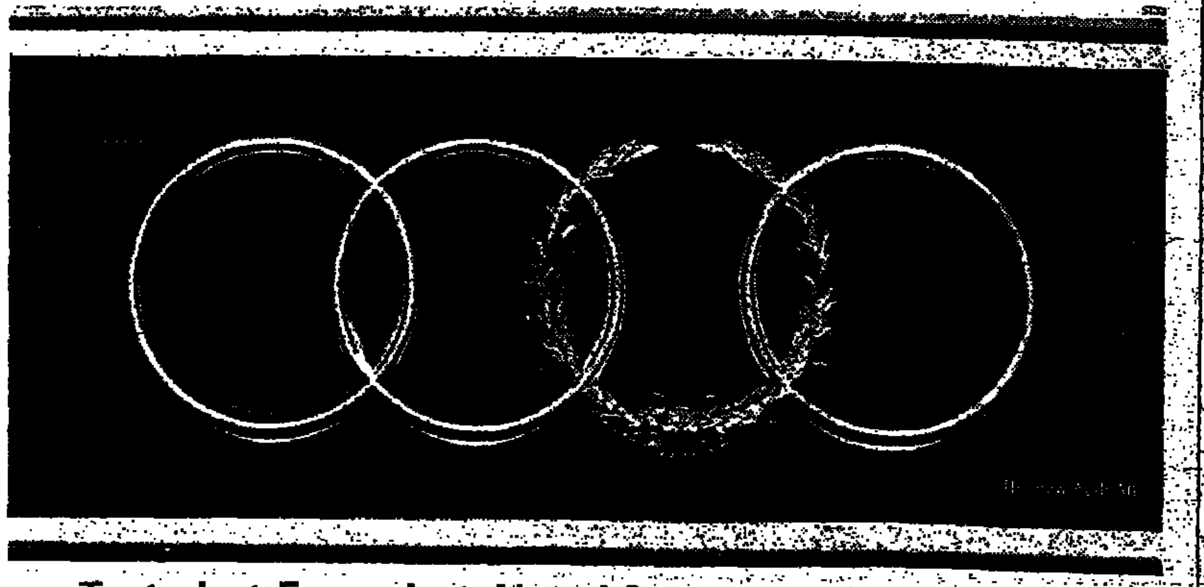

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Fears of loyalist retaliation increase after IRA says there will be no peace before talks

West End bomb prompts security crackdown

BY NICHOLAS WATT
AND RICHARD FORD

CURITY at important ildings in London was fur- er tightened yesterday after e discovery of the capital's cond bomb in a week con- rmed that Britain faces a newed campaign. Parking strictions were imposed ound Westminster and rmed police were on duty tside Buckingham Palace.

Police discovered the device ly hours after the IRA dicated that there was little ospect of an end to its newed activity unless Brit- n arranged all-party talks on e future of Northern eland.

It emerged yesterday that vo buildings in Docklands ice demolition and three ore may have to be pulled own after last Friday's bomb xplosion in east London.

Scotland Yard has already poken of attacks "anywhere, nytime or any place" with etectives believing the terror- its will vary their tactics to ause maximum confusion nd make people think they re able to strike at will.

Mary Robinson, the Irish President, last night urged politicians to commit themselves to re-establishing peace in the Province. Mrs Robinson said on a visit to Lisburn, Co Antrim: "We can build on friendship, we can build on the way in which people are reaching out to each other. We must go on doing that, I think, with even more determination and I hope that at the political level this will be matched by a commitment to re-establish the kind of secure peace that means so much."

The IRA said it had ended the cessation of violence because it did not believe there was a "glimmer of hope" that Britain would meet its commitment to hold all-party talks. A spokesman for the IRA's "general headquarters" said in *Republican News*, the Sinn Fein newspaper: "John Major has acted in bad faith throughout the period of the IRA cessation, introducing one pre-condition after another. He has betrayed the Irish peace process and has deliberately squandered this opportunity to resolve the causes of the age-old conflict between Britain and the Irish people. He did so to keep himself in power."

The spokesman accused the Government of being interested only in forcing republicans to surrender. He added that the IRA "couldn't persist in a sham whose sole purpose had become the attainment of an IRA surrender".

He refused to give details about the IRA's renewed campaign but he made clear that there was little hope of another ceasefire until Britain agrees to hold all-party talks. The spokesman said: "There is only one place for all the political representatives of the Irish people to go and that is the negotiating table. Current British policy prevents all those with a democratic mandate from sitting around that table. Where the rights of a community are denied, then there is inevitable conflict."

In Docklands, the South Quay Plaza, where two men died last Friday, could cost at least £30 million to demolish and rebuild. Roberth Tchenguiz, chairman of Rotch Property Group, which owns the plaza, said the building was insured against acts of terrorism. Very little of it remained, he said.

The five-storey offices of the Builder Group, a publishing company, is also structurally unsound, according to Pam Barker, one of the company's directors. Investigators suggested further properties may be at risk, but said they would have a clearer picture today when they are allowed across police cordons to make detailed estimates.

Yesterday's attack raised fears of renewed terrorist activity in Northern Ireland, as loyalist paramilitaries come under intense pressure to retaliate for bombs in London. Albert Reynolds, the former Irish Prime Minister who helped to bring about the ceasefire, said that more attacks in Britain would increase the chances of an end to the loyalist paramilitary ceasefire.

He said the loyalist paramilitaries had told him that bombs in London would not go unanswered. He told the Irish Parliament: "They say a bomb in London is an attack on their British ethos just as if it was planted in Belfast."

Five hundred extra troops were flown to Northern Ireland yesterday. The soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment brought the total troop level to 17,000.

John Taylor, deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said the arrival of the troops indicated that intelligence reports were suggesting that the IRA was likely to extend its campaign to the Province. He said: "I don't think that the Army is moving manpower into Northern Ireland unless they have intelligence to suggest that the IRA is likely to extend its campaign.

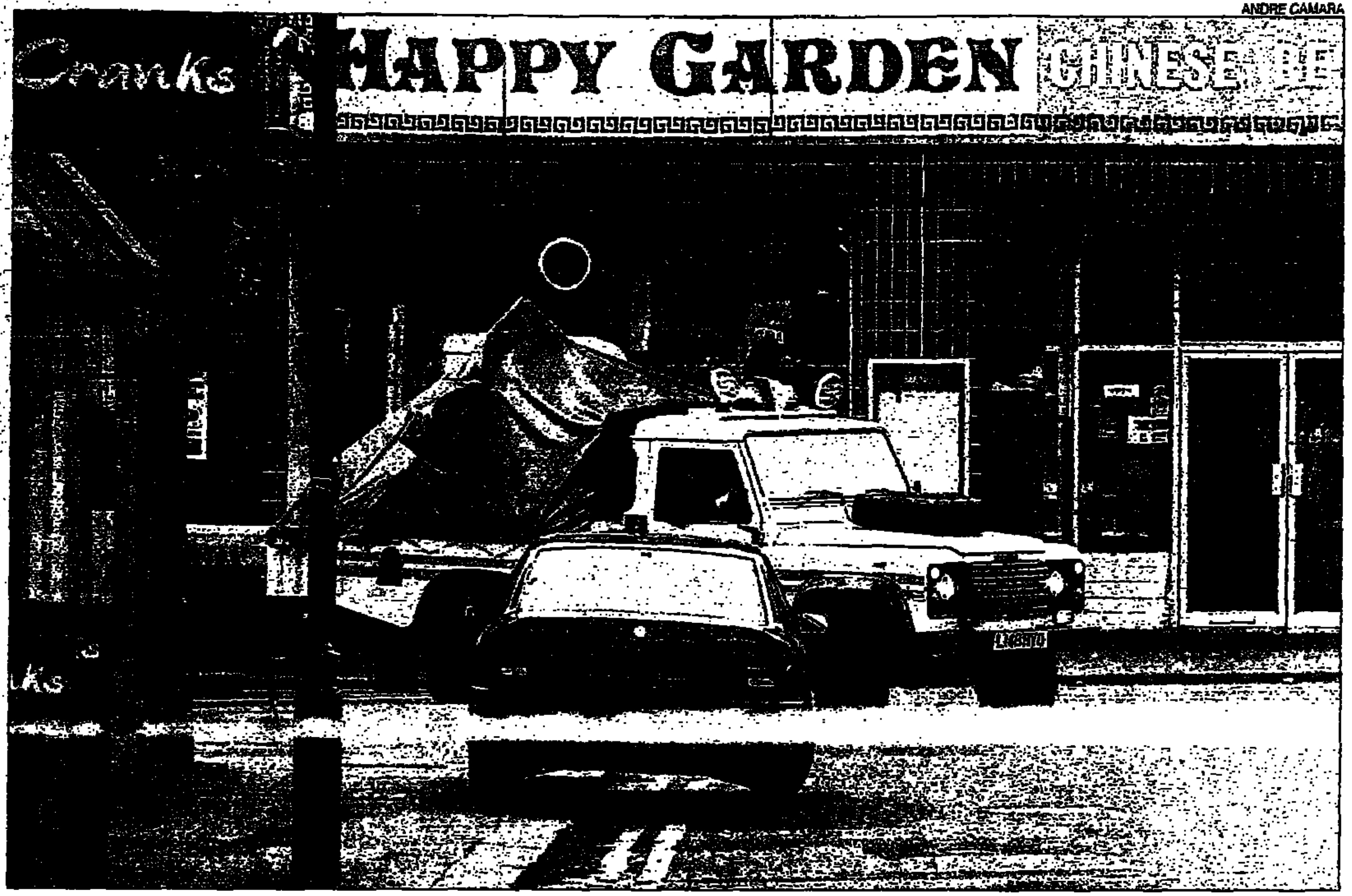
"The IRA statement clearly underlines the fact that they are going to increase their terrorist activities."

CARTOONISTS & WRITERS SYNDICATE

MIND WASHING YOUR HANDS BEFORE COMING TO THE TABLE?

The peace process as seen by Signe of the *Philadelphia Daily News* after the IRA bombing

ANDRE CAMARA



An anti-terrorist police vehicle in Charing Cross Road, in the alert that gridlocked central London for six hours. The device was sent for tests

Scientists examine device found in call-box for terrorist 'trademark'

BY ADRIAN LEE

FINDING yesterday's intact IRA device, which has been sent for scientific tests, could give anti-terrorist officers a breakthrough in their search for the London terrorists.

Every home-made device carries the "fingerprints" of the maker — his individual style — and comparing its construction with earlier finds may give clues as to who built it. The small device discovered yesterday in a telephone box is thought to be like those previously placed in litter bins.

The IRA has launched several litter-bin bomb campaigns, the last in 1993, when two children were killed in Warrington. A bin bomb showered a shopping area with chunks of metal. In the same year, litter-bin bombs injured 18 people in Camden, north London, and four people outside Harrods.

Yesterday's device was near the scene of a similar IRA attack on the Sussex public house near Covent Garden in October 1992, in which a customer died. That attack and yesterday's attempt follow an IRA traditon of bombing public meeting places. In 1974 two attacks on Birmingham pubs killed 21 people and injured 162.

Two bomb-squad officers have been killed while trying to defuse IRA bombs. In 1975, Roger Goad died while trying to make safe a bomb in Kensington. In October 1981, Kenneth Howorth, 49, died while tackling a device at a takeaway restaurant in Oxford Street. Anti-Terrorist Branch explosives officers are [illegible] personnel [illegible] Northern [illegible]

Each is a volunteer trained to deal with anything from a crude incendiary bomb to a sophisticated IRA device or a Second World War relic. The team is based at New Scotland Yard and is on stand-by 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Ulster ceasefires — the last IRA device defused in London was in Regent Street in August 1994 — has not meant that the team has slackened its efforts, although the numbers of officers deployed is thought to have been reduced by a fifth.

A Metropolitan Police spokesman said: "Just because the Provisional IRA threat has been reduced until lately, that does not mean the terrorist threat has disappeared. Many other groups from the Middle East and elsewhere are a threat and there has been no let-up."

In 1994 the Metropolitan bomb squad was called to 914 incidents but most were false alarms. Its busiest year was 1992, when officers were called out 2,233 times. In 1993, the last full year of IRA activity, 34 IRA bombs exploded on mainland Britain, ten devices did not explode and a further 19 ignited but did not explode.

The squad, founded in 1971, is responsible for organising searches, assessing the size and threat of any device and deciding on the size of the safety cordon around the threatened area.

Second alert disrupts theatreland

BY PETER FOSTER
AND OLIVER AUGUST

MATINEE performances of several West End shows were cancelled yesterday as central London was gridlocked for almost six hours after the discovery of the device in the capital's theatreland.

At the Palace Theatre, Cambridge Circus, where a showing of the musical *Les Misérables* had to be called off, police told up to 100 people including stage hands, performers and members of the audience who had arrived early to stay in the building, away from windows.

The box office said the disappointed audience were being offered a refund or the chance to see the show at a later date. The evening performance went ahead.

Matinees of *Crazy for You*, at the Prince Edward Theatre in Old Compton Street, and of David Storey's play *The Changing Room*, at the Duke of York's in St Martin's Lane, also had to be cancelled.

AA Roadwatch reported long traffic delays across central London after an area from Oxford Street to Piccadilly Circus was sealed off. The most disrupted areas were the City, Knightsbridge and the A501 Euston to Marylebone road.

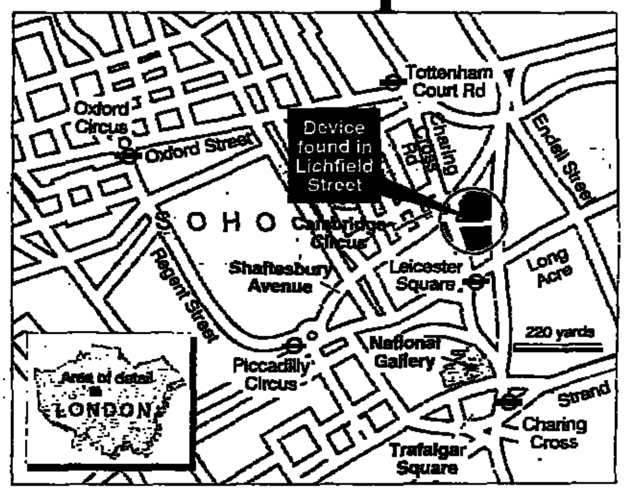
Traffic was also reported to be bottlenecked around the bridges as drivers tried to avoid the jams by crossing the Thames.

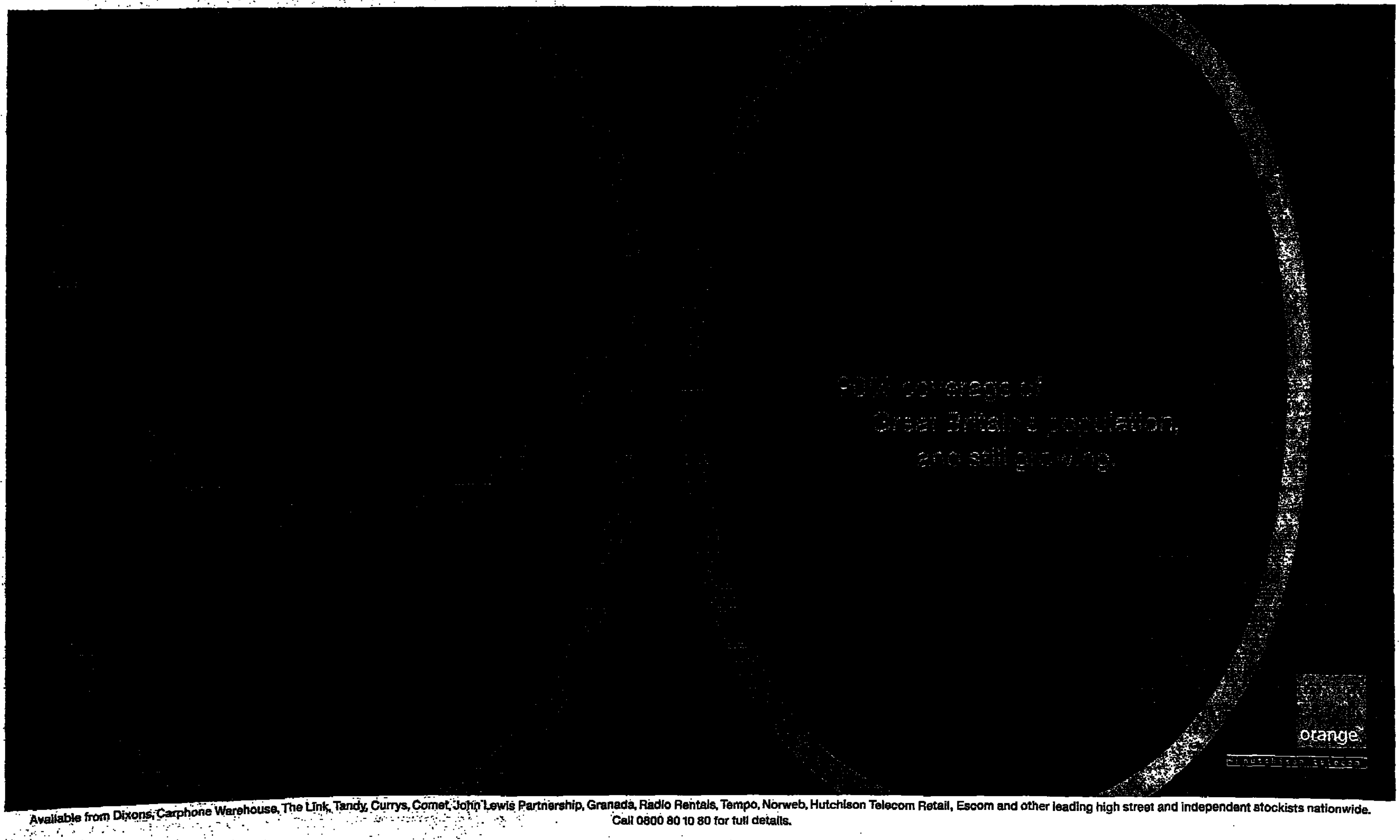
Six central Underground stations were closed during the search for the bomb.

Charing Cross was quickly reopened after a search. But Covent Garden, Piccadilly, Leicester Square, Tottenham Court Road and Holborn stations remained closed with trains allowed to pass through without stopping.

Bus traffic was also severely restricted by the security alert. The police asked London Transport to keep buses just outside the West End at Hyde Park Corner, Aldwych and Euston.

Several services were not resumed until late afternoon and many passengers were stranded in the West End. London Transport said it regretted not being able to inform passengers about the restrictions and when they were to be lifted.





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هكذا فن الدجل

International team of doctors combines keyhole bypass technique with widening of arteries

Pioneering operation 'will transform heart surgery'

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

A MEDICAL team in Bristol has become the first in the world to carry out a new two-stage heart operation, which is predicted to transform the treatment of thousands of people.

The operation, performed through a small incision in the chest, was hailed by the British Heart Foundation as a development that may spare patients the trauma of major surgery. About 25,000 open-heart operations are performed in Britain each year and up to a million worldwide.

An international team assembled by the Bristol Heart Institute carried out the procedure at the Bristol Royal Infirmary last week. It combines keyhole bypass surgery, in which a new artery is stitched on to the front of the heart, with angioplasty, in which a balloon technique is used to expand narrowed arteries at the back of the heart.

The joint procedure avoids the need for major open-heart surgery but allows both the front and back of the heart to be treated, which is not possible with the keyhole technique alone.

The patient, Dennis Dummett, 61, required only one small incision on the left side of his chest through which the keyhole bypass was performed. Surgeons diverted the internal mammary artery supplying the chest wall to the front coronary artery, bypassing the blockage.

Cardiologists then introduced the catheter carrying the balloon for the angioplasty, to treat the coronary artery at the back of the heart. This was done in the conventional way through a hollow needle inserted into an artery in the groin.

Mr Dummett, from Frampton Cotterell near Bristol, was in the recovery room for just over two hours after his operation. He was sitting up in bed the next day and was sent home two days later.

Conventional open heart bypass surgery requires a six-inch vertical cut in the chest, splitting the breast bone and stopping the heart temporarily. The patient is put on a heart lung machine. Veins from the thigh are stitched to the front and back of the heart, bypassing blockages. Patients spend 10 to 12 days in hospital and six weeks recuperating.

Professor Gianni Angelini, who led the team, said: "The procedure is set to transform heart surgery and I believe it will lead to a reduction of as much as 20 to 40 per cent in the number of conventional bypasses. In a few years' time everyone will be doing it."

Professor Angelini, whose post is funded by the British Heart Foundation, was joined for the operation by Professor Antonio Calafiore from Italy, a pioneer of keyhole bypass surgery, and Professor Tomas Salerno from the United States. Although it was the first time the combined procedure had been performed, the team had experience of more than 200 keyhole bypass operations.

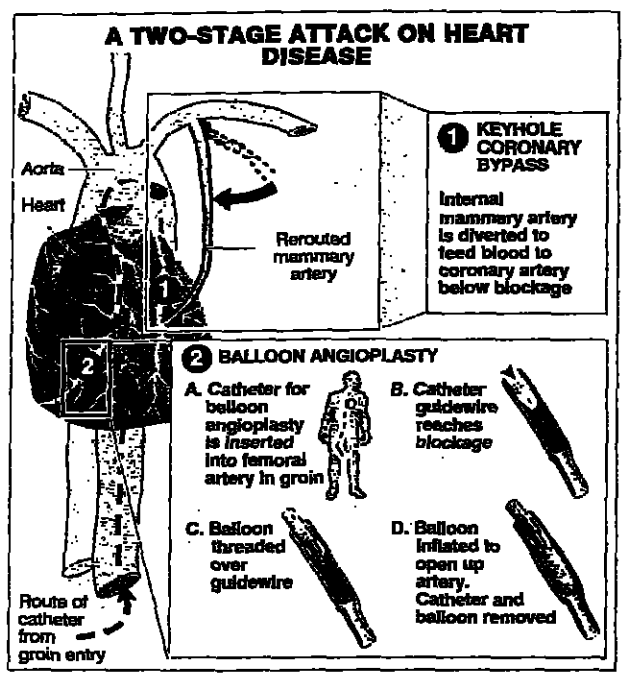
Professor Brian Pentecost, director of the British Heart Foundation, said the advantage of the combined procedure was that it reduced the risks and improved the outcome. "If you have three or four coronary arteries that are diseased, the risks of angioplasty increase. If one is damaged during the procedure you don't have the insurance that the others can take over. By first attaching a new artery graft to the front of the heart using the keyhole technique you have an umbrella of safety," he said.

Many patients undergoing heart surgery require second operations years later when their coronary arteries narrow again but these would be easier and safer if they had not undergone major surgery the first time, Professor Pentecost said.

The Royal College of Surgeons requires specialists who wish to take up keyhole surgery to undergo training first. Surgeons are then awarded certificates indicating the specialty in which they may practise and the range of procedures they are trained to perform. The skills are checked and a new certificate issued every five years.

☐ People with heart disease who suppress their emotions and tend to be negative have a four times greater risk of premature death, researchers from Belgium have found. They said in *The Lancet* that a study of 303 patients taking part in a cardiac rehabilitation programme who were followed for up to ten years found that those who tended to experience negative emotions and not express their feelings were more likely to die.

A TWO-STAGE ATTACK ON HEART DISEASE


Aorta
Heart
Rerouted mammary artery
1 KEYHOLE CORONARY BYPASS
Internal mammary artery is diverted to feed blood to coronary artery below blockage
2 BALLOON ANGIOPLASTY
A. Catheter for balloon angioplasty is inserted into femoral artery in groin
B. Catheter guidewire reaches blockage
C. Balloon threaded over guidewire
D. Balloon inflated to open up artery. Catheter and balloon removed
Route of catheter from groin entry
1
2

Dennis Dummett: looking forward to walking the family dogs and square dancing

Patient is eager to dance with delight

By Michael Horsnell

DENNIS DUMMETT was apprehensive about becoming a guinea pig but is delighted that his example will set a medical precedent.

"I was only asked to volunteer for the operation two weeks beforehand," he said. "But I put my faith in the specialist staff at the hospital and I would advise anyone who has the chance of this technique to take it."

The pain and breathlessness that accompanied his angina forced him to give up square dancing, his favourite pastime, 18 months ago. Now the former engineer is looking forward to swinging his wife Natalie round the floor again.

First he must reign back his enthusiasm. "I feel exceptionally well," Mr Dummett said. "The only problem I have is making sure that I do not do too much too soon."

The couple, who have a daughter, Beverley, 33, and son, Gregory, 30, danced at venues round the country up to four times a week. Mrs Dummett, 59, said: "It was a big part of our life. We really missed it. In a couple of months or so we hope to go back to it." Mr Dummett plans to resume playing his electronic organ in about a week and to take the family dogs for a walk again.

Asthmatics breathe easier as high-tech replaces the lows

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

A NEW device has been introduced by Allen and Hanbury that will enable asthmatic patients to inhale a measured dose of drugs to relax the spasm in the muscles of the bronchial tubes, or diminish the inflammation in their lining.

Systems for [illegible] drugs to [illegible] leading to [illegible] where they will exert their power, has exercised ingenuity of doctors for centuries. In the 17th and 18th centuries, asthmatic patients smoked a mixture of herbs including lobelia, stramonium and hyoscyamus mixed with tobacco, opium or, even in those days, cannabis.

By the 1930s and 1940s, asthmatics were still encouraged to smoke herbs, but by then the opium tobacco and pot had been left out of the mixture. The actor Donald Sinden, when a boy, suffered from asthma and has described how he had to inhale Doctor Potter's herbal [illegible] cigarettes. Other patients struggled with various forms of atomiser, and inhaled the mists they created.

It was only in 1956 that an ex-Spitfire pilot designed the first of the modern metered-dose inhalers. As befitted an invention of a fighter pilot, the inhaler discharged the dose at 65 to 90 miles an hour. Despite this, only 10 per cent of the drug reaches the bronchial tubes. The other principal problem with the pressure inhalers is that the patient has no record of amounts taken.

The Accuhaler, launched this week, is simple to use and has a recording device that reduces the risk of over-dosage and [illegible] when [illegible] supplies [illegible] able to take all the [illegible] prescribed inhaled [illegible] against asthma.

The British Thoracic Society has recently said that many deaths and much unnecessary disease have been associated with over-reliance on bronchodilators but underuse of inhaled steroid treatment.

There has been a failure to make objective measurements of the severity of attacks and there has been inadequate supervision. A dose counter will help patients to monitor their own therapy and provide an easy reminder if they forget a dose.

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High-powered careers put MPs in the shade

Peers turn over a new leaf with register of interests

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

PEERS revealed emphatically yesterday that living like a lord does not mean pottering round estates to hunt, shoot or fish, with occasional forays to Westminster for gossip and subsidised cigars. The first register of their interests shows that a modern peer is more likely to be able to run an investment bank than control a pack of hounds.

The 60-page edition of the new red book lists not only high-powered careers but also vocations as diverse as dentist, freelance zoologist, taxi driver, bus conductor, sculptor, fashion designer, sub-postmaster, author and columnist on *The Sun*. There is also an extraordinary array of hobbies and a deep commitment to charity work. MPs looked dusty in comparison.

More than 300 peers out of 1,100 have offered to write down their interests in the voluntary section of the red book. Two hundred more are expected to put their names forward for the next edition. Members of the Royal Family have declined to join in, but everyone is still expected to declare their interests when relevant during debates.

Hereditary peers include the president of Sainsbury plc and the chairman of Pearson plc. Lord Wade of Chorlton is chairman or president of nine companies. More than 100 act as unpaid chairmen for charities. Unlike MPs, none admits to free overseas trips.

Several have unusual hobbies. The Earl of Clanwilliam is passionate about alternative medicine and is patron of the Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the National Institute of Medical Herbalists. Viscount Caldecote is "interested in ship design and building".

A few still partake of more traditional activities. There are a string of stud farmers, racehorse trainers and owners of historic houses. Earl Haig puts "riparian owner of the Tweed" as well as saying he is a professional painter.

Haig: pursuing the traditional interests

Far from being aloof, many are avid participators in clubs such as the Alpine Garden Society. Viscount Waverley lists nothing except "member of the Friends of Burundi and participant in parliamentary seminars in Bujumbura".

The register has been rushed into the Lords after accusations that some of its occupants had abused their position, such as by taking cash for tabling questions. The necessity of a register horrified many who have believe that peers should be trusted to act on personal honour.

Before the register was published, rumours spread that more than 300 were now paid by consultancy companies. In the end, only 27 admitted to receiving any incentive or reward for parliamentary services, and they were split evenly between Labour and Tory peers.

Yesterday peers were far more fascinated by their red book than by the Scott report. One senior Tory said: "It is just a bit of fun and makes us look as though we are trying to be more professional.

"But in the end it won't make much difference. We already know who owns half of Scotland or a chunk of the City, and who has been forced into working for the lobbyists."

Musa Komeagac, second from left, in court yesterday. His father, centre, and a cleric, right, also face charges

Schoolgirl's Turkish 'husband' freed on bail

A COURT in Kahramanmaras, eastern Turkey bailed Musa Komeagac, the "husband" of 13-year-old Sarah Cook, after commiting him for trial on charges of statutory rape yesterday (Andrew Finkel writes from Istanbul).

The crowded courtroom erupted into loud applause when the state prosecutor asked for Mr Komeagac, 18, to be released. His lawyers had presented evidence of a hospital report on Sarah's bone structure, which suggested she had a biological age of over 15 years. The two met while Mr Komeagac was a waiter in a Mediterranean resort where Sarah, from Braintree in Essex, was on a family holiday.

The trial is adjourned until April. Musa's father Ali was committed for trial as an accomplice, as was Ahmet Dag, the Muslim cleric who had performed a marriage ceremony that has no status under Turkish law. He told the court that Sarah looked 18 or 19 and "said she was a Muslim".

The decision to release the waiter was praised in the town, where Sarah is known as "the national bride" and her partner is considered a local hero. He was taken on a lap of honour.

SHE WAS INVOLVED IN THREE CHARGES OF POSSESSION

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Greet a new year or admit old sins

WEEKEND SHOPPING

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE Chinese new year of the rat starts on Monday, the day after is Shrove Tuesday and shops are marking both with price reductions. The showiest promotions are for Chinese ingredients such as stir-fry sauces and mixes, noodles, ginger, beansprouts, lychees and the increasingly varied ranges of ready-prepared Chinese meals.

The requirements for pancakes are simpler and there are special offers on flour, eggs, syrup, oranges and lemons. For those unwilling to toss their own, Marks & Spencer is promoting boxes of microwaveable ready-made pancakes complete with maple and raisin, toffee or chocolate sauce.

Advertised promotions include:

Asda: fresh beef rump steak £7.19 kg, fresh boneless pork leg £3.28 kg, 4½lb chicken £3.89, onions 35p 1.25kg, carrots 49p 2kg, green seedless grapes 79p lb.

Budgens: McDougalls plain / self-raising flour 59p 1.5kg, Rowse maple syrup £1.99 330g, Jiff lemon 29p 55ml, Bluecrest prime haddock fillets in breadcrumbs £2.29 600g, broccoli 59p lb.

Co-op: fresh turkey thigh joint with herbs £1.99 800g, four steak, kidney and onion pies 99p, sausage, bacon and egg quiche £1.19 395g, deep dish chicken and sweetcorn pie £1.26 454g, Cherry Valley chicken tikka £2.49 320g.

Harrods: tiger prawns with mango and ginger dressing £3.95 100g, Maryland crab cakes £2.95 each, scallop with salmon mousse £2.95 each, mozzarella di bufala cheeses £3.50 each.

Iceland: smoked gammon joint £4.44 kg, breaded haddock fillets £1.49 600g, pepperoni 9in pizza 99p, turkey mince 99p 500g, two whole boneless breaded plaice £1.29, Mediterranean fish bake 99p 300g, extra large prawns £4.79 400g, minted peas 99p 907g, Oriental vegetable mix £1.29 for 907g.

Marks & Spencer: Chinese menu for two £4.99 870g, roast chicken plate pie £2.49 550g, six maple and raisin, toffee or chocolate pancakes 69p, oranges in caramel with Grand Marnier £1.25 300g, new potatoes £1.29 kg.

Morrison's: tandoori chicken balti masala £1.99 400g, sticky toffee pudding £1.39 350g, oysters 39p each, mussels 99p kg, whole trout £2.84 kg, cod steaks £5.27 kg, whole herring £2.09 kg.

Safeway: six turkey breast steaks £3.19 567g, turkey stir-fry £2.49 454g, diced stewing steak £4.09 kg, medium chicken £1.79 kg, British roast leg of pork 79p ½lb, Irish medium cheddar £1.89 lb, Conference pears 38p lb, Golden Delicious apples 38p lb.

Sainsbury's: Peking duck £4.45 390g, fresh leg of lamb £5.39 kg, fresh topside/silverside £5.99 kg, salmon steaks £8 kg, premium pork boneless roasting joint £3.50 kg, two lemons 18p, courgettes 85p lb, double cream 99p 568ml.

Somerfield: casserole beef £2.19 454g, fresh British pork king ribs £2.46 kg, mixed vegetable stir-fry £1.09 500g, fresh smoked cod fillet £1.57 lb, baby new potatoes 89p 500g, loose Egyptian new potatoes 16p lb, Empire Red apples 39p lb.

Tesco: sirloin steak £9.69 kg, pork sparerib chops £2.79 kg, lamb loin chops £7.69 kg, cripsy bake raised pork pie £1.19 430g, cod fillet £1.95 lb, live oysters 39p each, broccoli 79p 450g, Jaffa oranges £1.59 for 12, fresh large eggs £1.35 for 12.

Waitrose: British pork boneless shoulder roast £2.99 kg, English diced veal £2.59 340g, fresh chicken olives £2.29 for 425g, Scottish salmon fillets £3.99 lb, dwarf carrots 99p for 200g, Cyprus lemons 15p each, blood oranges 89p kg.

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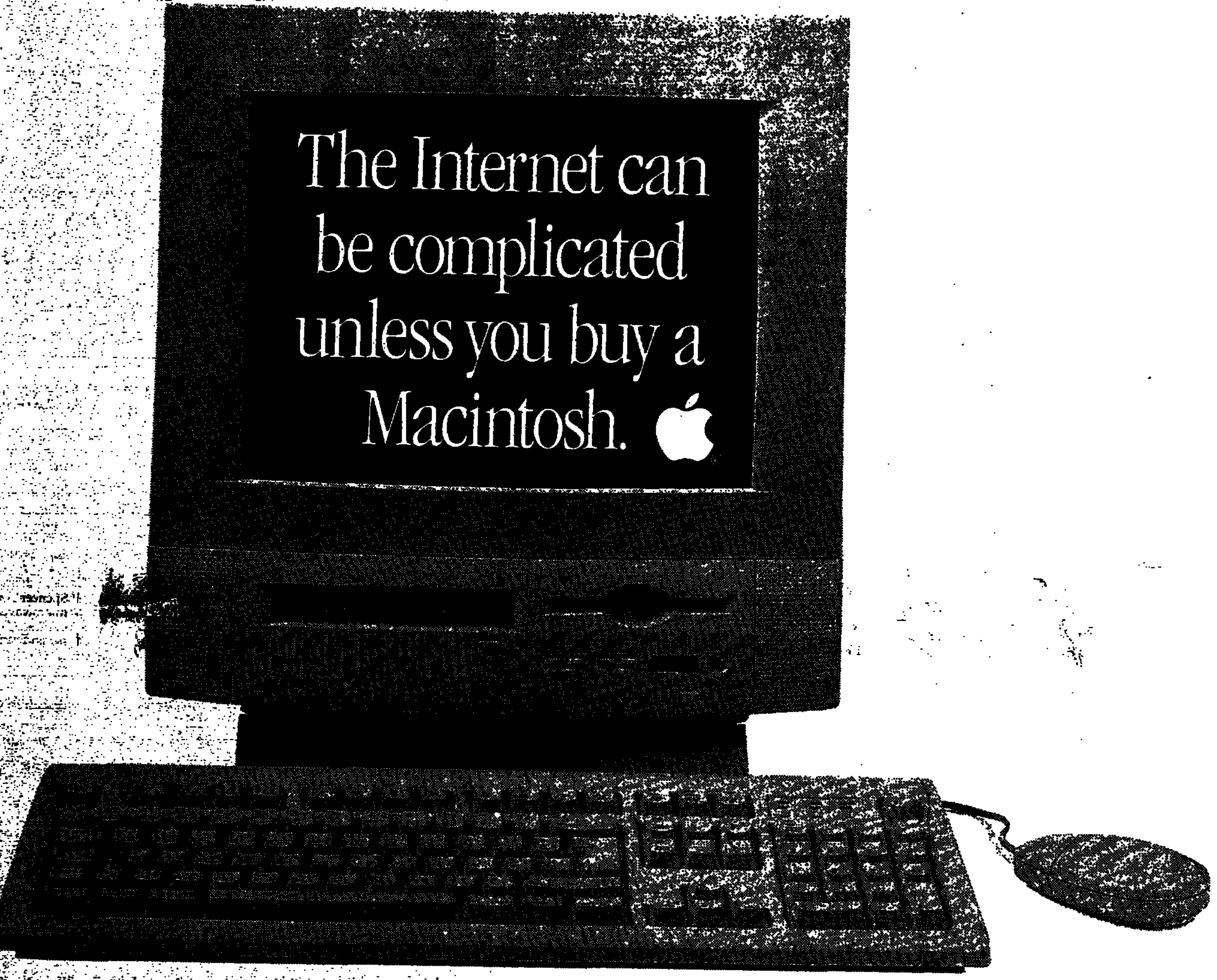

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هكذا في الاصل

Quest for ancestor's remains turns heads at airport with display of waving and wailing

Witchdoctor casts spell on Heathrow arrivals

By Joanna Bale

A WITCHDOCTOR dressed in leopardskin, waving a spear and wailing loudly, brought Terminal 2 at Heathrow to a standstill yesterday. Chief Nicholas Gcaleka had arrived on a mission from South Africa to find the head of a warrior ancestor he believes lies somewhere in Scotland.

As the chief emerged from Customs, suitcase in one hand and spear — wrapped in airport security tape — in the other, he was besieged by camera crews, photographers, and journalists. Clearly delighted by the attention, he began waving the spear and wailing loudly in his native Xhosa.

He then conducted an impromptu press conference at the end of the walkway for arriving passengers, while a queue of puzzled travellers built up behind him. Chief Gcaleka said in English that he was certain that he would find the head of King Hintsa, his great-great-uncle, which is thought to have been taken by a Scottish soldier during a battle against the Xhosa tribe in the Eastern Cape in 1835.

The chief said the spirits had told him the head was to be found in Scotland and that he would find it before returning home. "I have no doubt of it. I know where it is. By coming here we will bring our kingdom back to South Africa. I'm here on a spiritual search."

He said the head held the key to peace in South Africa, and he did nothing to dispel rumours that President Mandela, himself a Xhosa, had partly funded the two-week trip with £10,000 of his own money. "Mandela is with us!" he shouted.

Eventually two policemen, more concerned with security than the chief's quest, moved him and his media scrum outside.

As he walked bare-legged into the cold winter air, Chief Gcaleka refused to discuss the matter any further, saying: "You will have to pay me money for more information." He was driven away in a black stretch limousine, a bottle of champagne at the ready, bound for a series of television interviews.

The trip, sponsored by two South African breweries, will involve searching museums in London and Scotland for clues to the whereabouts of the missing head. Chief Gcaleka said he believed it may be at Fort George, near Inverness, which was the base of the now defunct 72nd and 75th Highland regiments.

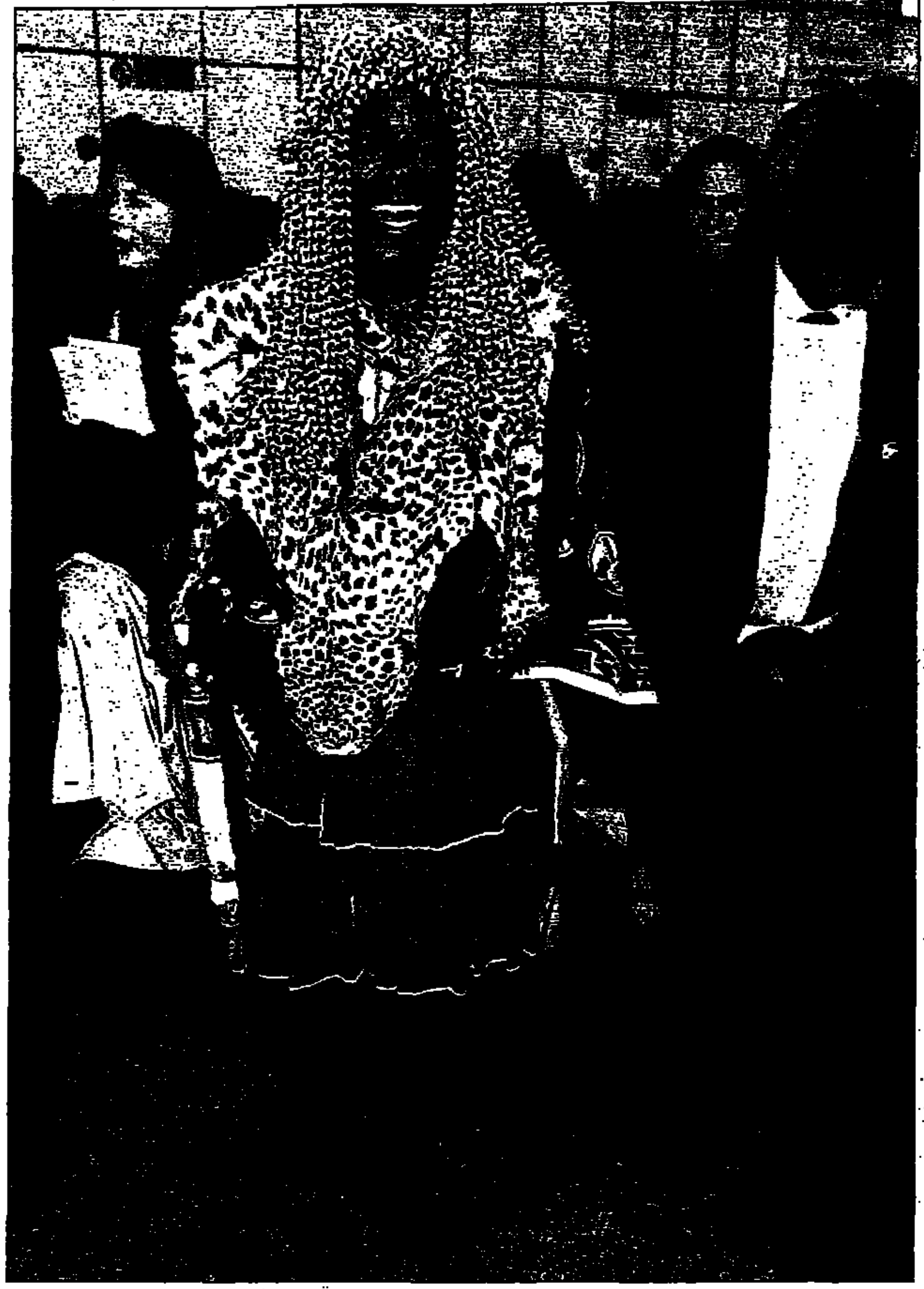
The chief's guide in Britain is Robert Pringle, 20, whose father is a close friend of the chief's in South Africa. He said: "This is a great honour for me. My father was meant to come but could not make it."

Today the chief will meet the South African High Commissioner. Tilana Grobbelaar, a commission official, said at the airport: "We see it as his own spiritual mission, but we are monitoring his visit."

History does not record whether King Hintsa was decapitated, and there is no indication as to whether any remains were dispatched to Britain, although army surgeons of that era frequently sent home skulls and limbs for scientific study.

The search is likely to renew the debate about thousands of human remains held in collections throughout the country. The Natural History Museum in London alone has 17,000 body parts, including those of South African bushmen.

JULIAN HERBERT



Costume drama: Chief Gcaleka's arrival in leopardskin at Heathrow yesterday caused a passenger pile-up in Terminal 2 as he gave an impromptu press conference

South Africans see chief's mission as poor publicity

THE killing of King Hintsa on May 14, 1835, is one of the more controversial episodes of South African history. *There are conflicting accounts of the incident, but what is known is that a Cape military guide of Scottish descent named George Southey fired a fatal shot while Hintsa was trying to escape from a contingent of British troops who were holding him hostage during the early days* of the Sixth Frontier War.

Hintsa's death caused outrage in London, culminating in an effigy of Southey being burnt in Trafalgar Square by the London Missionary Society, which maintained that Hintsa was murdered by misguided British colonial policy.

The protests led to a court of inquiry, which exonerated Southey of any wrongdoing but determined that Hintsa's corpse had been mutilated. However, it did not say how or by whom. Hintsa's body was left on the banks of the *River Nqabara for his own* people to find and Xhosa oral history maintains that the head was missing.

Many South Africans were reluctant to donate money to Chief Gcaleka's search, which they feel at best is a dubious enterprise and at worst makes black South *Africans appear primitive* and superstitious. Some white-owned companies are also keeping their distance because many English-speaking South Africans would prefer to forget that part of their history.

Even so, the expectations *raised by Chief Gcaleka's trip* are so high that one Xhosa journalist has predicted that, should he return without the head, many people may demand his in its place.

Global warming 'will lead to war over water' in 21st century

Houghton: said UN would have to settle water disputes

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

WAR will break out as global warming leads rival nations to fight for control of dwindling water supplies in the next century, the leading British climate scientist at the United Nations said yesterday.

Sir John Houghton, chairman of the UN body assessing global warming, predicted that British and UN forces would be deployed to keep armies and communities apart as they squabbled over rivers and lakes. He said the battles over the world's water resources could dwarf those seen in the former Yugoslavia in severity and the numbers made homeless.

Sir John's views are supported by Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, a former Admiral of the Fleet. He says that the Royal Navy, RAF and the Army will, over the coming years, increasingly be used to police international environmental treaties designed to avert disasters and secure dwindling natural resources.

Sir Julian says in the book *Enemies Without Frontiers* that uncontrolled global warming "will probably lead to a disastrous collision between traditional and environmental concerns . . . resulting in widespread conflict".

Sir John, a distinguished academic who is chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and former chief executive of the UK Meteorological Office, was speaking after the agreement by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that rising global temperatures are at least partly due to man-made pollution. Scientists believe extreme and freakish weather, similar to that of recent years, will become the norm in a globally warmed world.

Sir John, author of *Global Warming: the complete briefing*, told the Royal Society in London yesterday that demand for water had been rising, particularly where it was used for irrigation: "There are already significant tensions, especially in regions where the water from major river systems is shared between nations," said Sir John, who cited the rivers Nile, Jordan and Euphrates.

"I just hope governments, industry and the public can be sensible and find solutions before they escalate into military action. You can be sure that military action in the next century will not be pretty."

Sir John's arguments have been given added urgency by the first study on the world's demand for fresh water. American researchers at Stanford University and the Global Water Policy Project in Cambridge, Massachusetts, estimate that 54 per cent of the world's available fresh water is being consumed by man. This will rise to 70 per cent by 2025 unless conservation policies are drafted.

Addicts die after taking pure heroin

Police fear a growing toll among heroin users after the deaths of two addicts in Derby were found to have been caused by lethally pure batches of the drug. Dealers have found they can still make large profits without diluting supplies. Addicts were warned to be cautious when buying supplies from unknown dealers.

Ayres on air

The comic poet Pam Ayres is taking over Charlie Chester's Sunday afternoon *Soapbox* slot on BBC Radio 2, which he started in 1969, from Frank Topping, who has been standing in since Chester, 82, had a stroke three months ago. He is recovering in hospital.

Baby milks fail

Only two of 11 formula milks for babies tested by scientists at South Bank University, London, provided enough selenium to meet the Health Department's recommendation of ten micrograms a day. The nutrient's effects include protection against heart disease and cancer.

Lion at large

A hunt was under way in the Omagh and Fintona areas of Co Tyrone for a lion believed to have escaped from a private collection. Police said *there had been two apparent* sightings. Legal controls on keeping dangerous animals do not extend to Northern Ireland.

Electronic male

Young men who are too shy to ask GPs or telephone helplines about issues such as testicular cancer and impotence will be able to ask via E-mail on the Internet in conjunction with a BBC2 series, *The Trouble With Men*, beginning next week.

Seeds of success

The grass seed used for the pitch at Wembley stadium is to go on general sale. Johnsons says the blend of three varieties took years to perfect. The turf has been tested with a football boot simulator at the firm's headquarters in Boston, Lincolnshire.

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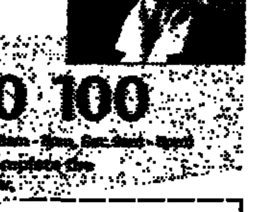

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16 1996

Fall in inflation strengthens case for further rate cut

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

BRITISH inflation fell below 3 per cent for the first time in more than a year, reinforcing what the City believes is the strengthening case for another cut in interest rates next month.

The headline retail prices index fell by 0.3 per cent in January compared with December, depressing the annual rate of inflation from 3.2 per cent to 2.9 per cent, the lowest it has been since December 1994.

The underlying inflation rate, which the Government aims to get to 2.5 per cent or below by the end of this Parliament, fell from 3 per cent to 2.8 per cent — its lowest level since last July. RPIY, the measure of inflation favoured by the Bank of England which excludes mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, was stable at 2.5 per cent.

Stock market prices soared. The FT-SE 100 index came within a whisker of a record high, piling on 34.8 points to end at 3,779.8 on hopes of lower base rates. The record of 3,782.6 was set on February 2.

Together with recent news of falling producer prices and stable growth in average earnings, yesterday's figures backed up the Bank's judgment in its *Inflation Report* this week that it sees no sign of an imminent rise in price pressures.

The City concluded that there was no hurdle to another quarter-point cut in base rates at the March 7 monetary meeting. Andrew Cates, of UBS, the broker, said: "Over the past two weeks, almost every economic statistic could be used to justify a further cut in base rates. And the Governor of the Bank of England, at the moment it would seem, will not stand in the Chancellor's way."

The only question in the mind of analysts is whether the cut will follow the March meeting or a subsequent one. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said on Wednesday that there was no case for recklessness in setting monetary policy and he may want to delay a little after cuts in December and January.

The Central Statistical Office said that record-breaking discounts in the January sales coupled with lower mortgage rates were responsible for the fall in inflation. Rate cuts by smaller building societies took just over 0.1 per cent off the headline rate of inflation on its own.

Prices of clothing and footwear fell by 5.6 per cent in January, the largest monthly fall since February 1921, when the rate of price rises was measured by the Cost of Living Index for the Working Classes. Household goods prices fell by 3 per cent in the month, the biggest decline in any month since comparable records began in 1956.

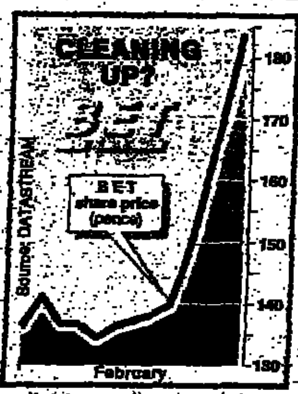
Further downward effects on inflation expected this month include an intensification of supermarket price wars, lower petrol prices and another mortgage rate cut. Against this, a rebound is expected in prices of household goods and clothing and footwear as new stocks come into the shops.

The Bank of England said on Wednesday that it expected inflation to drift downwards for most of this year before picking up again gently. It now expects underlying inflation to be somewhat below 2.5 per cent at the end of two years.

Pennington, page 25
City Diary, page 27

Rentokil's BET bid may lead to SE inquiry

By Christine Buckley



RENTOKIL yesterday moved towards a £2 billion takeover of BET, the business services group, in what would be the biggest expansion by far of the rapidly growing pest-control and security services group.

A Stock Exchange inquiry is expected after strong City speculation over the move, and a leap in the price of BET shares fuelled by huge transactions on Wednesday and again yesterday before the formal approach at midday by Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil.

On Wednesday, 28 million shares were traded in BET and yesterday 20 million of the 48.66 million shares dealt went through before Mr Thompson's 12.15 telephone call to Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of BET, which was then relayed to the Stock Exchange. The Exchange would not comment on the transactions and price jump, up nearly 12 per cent this week ahead of the announcement.

Yesterday, BET's share price rose 34½p to 184½p, while Rentokil, which is likely to have to fund a bid with a mixture of shares and cash, fell 26p to 336½p.

BET's board meets today to discuss Rentokil's move. Both sides say that a price has not been discussed but analysts believe that Rentokil will have to offer about £2 a share to ensure the agreement of BET. Such an offer would value BET at just under £2 billion.

The move marks a sharp change of strategy for Rentokil, which has been buying up businesses after setting itself an ambitious annual growth target of 20 per cent. But Charles Grimaldi, Rentokil's corporate affairs director, said that the company was less attracted by the size of BET than by its make-up, which overlaps with the office services and distribution operations of its would-be predator.

"We have been watching BET for a number of years, partly because they are in our sector but also because we have been interested in how the company has been shaped by John Clark," he said.

Under Mr Clark, the chief executive, BET — which is involved in cleaning, distribution, catering and security — has been streamlined from 160 businesses to 60 and has been restored to financial health. Recently the company has moved towards acquisitions.

While the City absorbs Rentokil's proposed deal, which would propel the expanded company to true conglomerate status, there is some confidence that the move is a sensible one and that BET would offer Rentokil scope for margin improvement. Charles Spick, analyst with Panmure Gordon, said: "This will really test the mettle of Rentokil. Until now it has concentrated on fairly small additions. But there is admiration for its management and they should be able to push up margins."

Analysts vary on whether the deal would mean dilution of earnings for Rentokil. Some believe it may be executed without incurring any dilution while others forecast the impact would be slight.

It is likely, however, that the shares — which until now have been very highly rated — would be reappraised. Rentokil shares are fairly tightly held, pushing up the rating, so a large issue of paper to fund a deal would lead to a re-rating and make them less attractive.

Rentokil, after aggressive expansion under Mr Thompson is the world's largest pest-control company and largest global supplier of office plants.

Tempus, page 26

Palmy days: Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive, who formally announced the BET bid at midday yesterday

Granada swoops on Yorkshire TV

By Alasdair Murray

GRANADA yesterday made a £52 million share raid on Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, taking its holding to nearly 24 per cent, but said that it was not intending to launch a full bid at this stage.

The raid, widely seen as an attempt by Granada to raise its stake in Yorkshire ahead of enactment of the Broadcasting Bill, prompted heavy trading in other media stocks as speculation grew over the next takeover candidate in the sector after last week's £3 billion merger between MAI and United News & Media.

Carlton was the big loser, down 27p at £10.29, as pressure grew on it to react to the moves made by its main rivals towards consolidation of television ownership. There had been speculation that Carlton might swap its stake in Meridian with the 14 per cent stake in Yorkshire owned by Meridian's parent company, MAI. MAI refused to comment yesterday on the future of its stake.

Granada bought 6.12 per cent of Yorkshire shares at £10 a share, taking its own stake to 20 per cent, the maximum allowed by current broadcasting legislation. However, Granada also announced that a subsidiary owned with Lazards, Allquiet Investments, had bought a further 3.88 per cent at the same price. Yorkshire shares soared 150p after the raid, to close at £10.17.

Granada's decision to "deadlock" the 3.88 per cent stake was described by the Independent Television Commission as "within the letter but outside the spirit of the 1990 Broadcasting Act". Charles Allen, chief operating officer of Granada, said that he had cleared the deal with the ITC earlier in the day.

United News and MAI used a similar tactic to avoid ownership restrictions.

The situation should be clarified by the new Broadcasting Act, which will allow companies to take up to 15 per cent of the ITV market share.

Granada's move received a warm response from Yorkshire, which emphasised benefits of synergy between the two companies.

Pennington, page 25
Market Report, page 26

British Gas challenged on contracts

By Carl Mortished

EXECUTIVES at Royal Dutch Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, yesterday cast doubt on the scale of the take-or-pay contracts problem facing British Gas and demanded that British Gas executives come up with a solution.

British Gas has said that it needs to renegotiate some £40 billion of contracts with oil companies struck at high prices. However, Chris Fay, chief executive of Shell UK, said yesterday that British Gas has yet to come up with a proposal. "The problem is indeed overstated," he said. "The issue is one of volume management, not of price."

Shell said it was charging British Gas well below the 20p per therm average price under all of British Gas's contracts. BP recently indicated that its contracts to British Gas averaged 16p. British Gas is believed to have accelerated production of high cost fields like its own Morecambe Bay, priced at 26p per therm.

Shell cuts, page 25
Tempus, page 26

Banks defend lending policy after Scott report

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

BRITISH banks were last night poring over the Scott report for any suggestion that their lending practices might have been at fault.

The Co-operative Bank says in full-page advertisements in several national newspapers today (see page 13) that while other banks may have used customers' money to help finance arms, it did not participate in this trade. The bank says: "Between 1981 and 1990, certain banks used hundreds of millions of pounds of their customers' money to finance the supply of arms to both Iran and Iraq. The Co-op Bank would like to offer reassurance to its customers that we did not, and will not finance the sale of arms to Iraq, Iran or any other oppressive regime."

The bank refused to name which of its rivals financed arms deals, but a spokesman said: "Hundreds of millions of pounds of arms went from this country to Iraq and Iran. You cannot send arms of that kind of size of deal without a bank being involved."

NatWest said: "The NatWest Group has extensive relationships with major corporates in the UK and overseas, some of whose activities include armaments manufacture. We seek to be fully satisfied as to the integrity of these companies and their compliance with all legislation relevant to their activities."

Barclays said: "Barclays supports UK defence manufacturing companies and finances selected exports of defence goods, provided the transaction is approved and the goods licenced by the UK Government."

Midland said its policy is to only consider financing defence equipment which is manufactured in the UK and which qualifies for cover from the ECGD.

MIDLAND HELPS FUND ARMS TO DICTATORS

Protesters outside the Midland Bank's AGM last year

Scott reaction, pages 1-4
Peter Riddell, page 18
Simon Jenkins, page 18
Diary, page 18
Leading article, page 19
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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3779.8	(+34.8)
Yield	3.85%	
FT-SE A All share	1856.23	(+15.19)
Nikkei	20886.19	(-57.40)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5587.14	(+7.59)*
S&P Composite	656.21	(+0.63)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¼%*	(4½%)
Long Bond	98 15/32*	(98¾)
Yield	6.11%*	(6.09%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 5/32%	(6 7/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	108 15/16	(108 7/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5385*	(1.5430)
London:		
$	1.5379	(1.5375)
DM	2.2599	(2.2556)
FFr	7.7825	(7.7770)
SFr	1.8444	(1.8415)
Yen	163.38	(164.13)
£ Index	84.2	(84.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4705*	(1.4640)
FFr	5.0631*	(5.0455)
SFr	1.1995*	(1.1955)
Yen	106.15*	(106.15)
$ Index	96.0	(96.1)

Tokyo close Yen 105.85

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$16.50	($17.15)

GOLD

London close	$403.65	($402.45)

* denotes midday trading price

Farnell wins approval to proceed with bid

By Alasdair Murray

FARNELL declared victory in its battle to proceed with a £1.8 billion bid for Premier, the American electronics distribution company, after securing a surprisingly comfortable majority of shareholder votes at its EGM yesterday.

Farnell won 84 per cent of the votes, safely above the 75 per cent it needed, in spite of opposition to the deal from two major institutional shareholders.

Standard Life and Legal and General, which control 3.5 per cent of the stock between them, had voiced reservations about the price and funding of the bid.

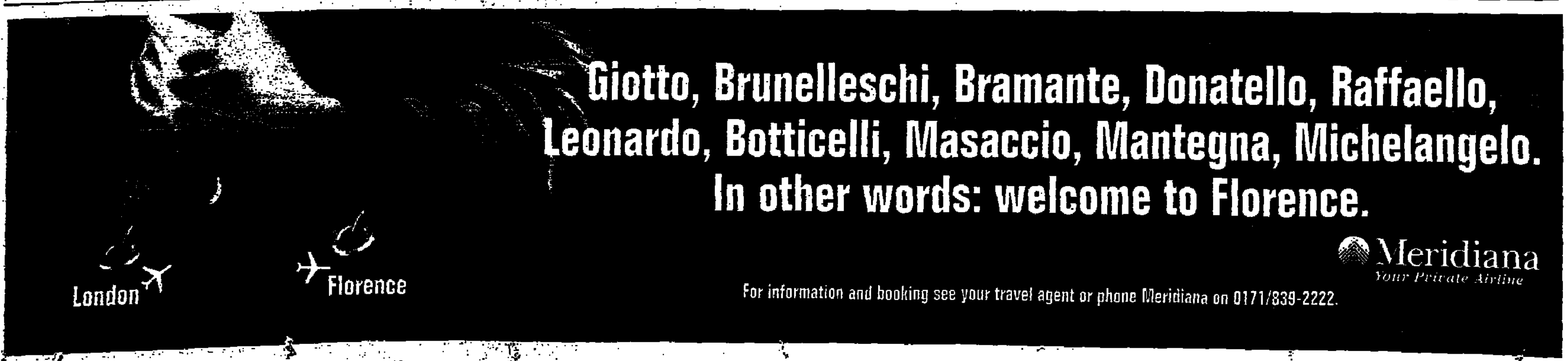
Standard Life said it remained concerned about the financial risks associated with the deal. However, the fund management group would not say whether it would now sell its stake in the company.

Pensions Investment Research Consultants, the corporate governance pressure group, said the EGM was a turning point in UK corporate governance. Anne Simpson, joint managing director, said: "PIRC welcomes the unprecedented level of shareholder voting ... For too long, companies have assumed that shareholders will rubber-stamp their proposals."

Farnell still has to win approval from Premier shareholders, but with the support of the Mandel family, who control 54 per cent of the stock, that should prove a formality.

The company is proceeding with provisional allotment letters for its nine-for-19 rights issue immediately. Dealing in the new shares, which will be priced at 540p, starts today.

Pennington, page 25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Deep losses force Daimler to cut aerospace jobs

By Ross Tieman
Industrial Correspondent

DAIMLER-BENZ AEROSPACE is to axe almost 18,000 jobs over the next three years after announcing deeper than expected losses of DM4.3 billion burdened by massive restructuring costs.

Manfred Bischoff, the chairman, said he was counting upon further "Europeanisation" of the aerospace industry to help to restore the company's profitability. His remark appears to open the door to deeper collaboration with British Aerospace and Aérospatiale of France. Dasa's chief partners in Airbus Industrie, the civil jet-builder.

Dasa is pushing for Airbus to play a bigger role in regional jets, where BAe has allied itself with Aérospatiale and Alenia of Italy in AIR. But it is also thought open to closer collaboration in military aircraft, where it partners BAe, Alenia and Casa of Spain on the Eurofighter warplane programme.

Herr Bischoff said Dasa was also open in principle to "implementable co-operation" between MTU, its aero-engine business, and BMW Rolls-Royce, a 50/50 joint venture that has just launched its first motor for business and regional jets. But he added that legal problems — thought to centre upon MTU's close links with Rolls' arch-rival Pratt & Whitney of America — prevented this going ahead at the moment.

Dasa's losses have pushed its parent Daimler-Benz to record a loss of DM6 billion, the worst in German corporate history. The aerospace arm had been expected to lose DM4 billion. Of that, DM2.3 billion arises from the decision last month to cut off support for Fokker, the Dasa-controlled Dutch regional jet maker which has since gone into administration.

The rest comprises losses arising from the strength of the mark against the US dollar, in which aircraft are priced, and restructuring charges. Of the job losses, 7,700 are accounted for by the Fokker withdrawal. There will be 600 Fokker-related job losses at Dasa, while previously announced programmes would account for 8,000 of the total.

The company said it would not abandon aerospace, but further disposals are expected. Top of the list is Dornier, the company's regional turboprop arm, where the Dornier family are contemplating exercising their right to buy out Daimler's interest.

Pay hope at Allied Leisure

Allied Leisure, the nightclubs and bowling company, expects to resume dividend payments at the end of this financial year. It yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £515,000 for the half to December 31, aginst £773,000 in the previous first half. The interim dividend is again passed.

Ken Scobie, chairman, said that the second half would benefit from upgrading of the core estate and the first contribution from the £19.79 million, November acquisition of GX Superbowl, funded through a £15.84 million rights issue.

First-half earnings a share were 0.63p, down from 1.03p. Reported turnover rose to £9.68 million, from £9.54 million: the 1994 comparison included £1.52 million from three nightclubs now sold.

Barclays sale

Barclays has signed a letter of intent to sell its 40 branches in Cyprus to Hellenic Bank for $18 million. Barclays Bank's offshore operations on Cyprus are not included.

Siebe to sell

Siebe, the engineer, is to sell to Jordan Industries, for £13 million, its subsidiary Barber-Colman Motors, of Illinois, which employs 245 making electric motors.

Bonus rates

Scottish Mutual Assurance's annual bonus rate for its life unitised with-profits fund stays at 7.5 per cent. The pension annual bonus rate falls from 9.5 to 9 per cent. Rates of reversionary bonus for 1995 are 2.25 per cent of basic benefit and 4.5 per cent of the existing bonus.

Bovis coup

Bovis, the P&O construction company, has won an agreement with the Grand Bahama Port Authority Group to assist development of 230 square miles of the island around Freeport.

N&P to name other bidders balked by £1.35bn Abbey deal

By Patricia Tehan
Banking Correspondent

NATIONAL & Provincial Building Society is to publish the names of the five banks and building societies it held talks with before agreeing to a £1.35 billion takeover by Abbey National.

Five names are in a document to be sent out to its members next month. Abbey is top of the list, along with a detailed section explaining why the society felt that Abbey's was the best deal for members. The other names, some of which have never confirmed their interest in N&P, are understood to be Nationwide, Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Cheltenham & Gloucester, which is owned by Lloyds Bank.

Alastair Lyons, chief executive of N&P, said yesterday that, under the Building Societies Act, the society is required to identify organisations that submitted written proposals. He refused to say how many organisations would be named or what the names were.

Members will vote on the £1.35 billion takeover by Abbey National at a special meeting in the middle of April, and the deal is expected to be completed in August.

Alastair Lyons, N&P chief executive, who will brief members on Abbey decision

N&P and Cheltenham & Gloucester unveiled their results for 1995 yesterday. Both revealed that there had been substantial growth in lending figures in spite of what they both described as a subdued and highly competitive market. N&P reported a 39.5 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £187 million after the £8 million exceptional cost of fees in connection with the Abbey National deal.

It pushed its net and gross mortgage shares to 2.9 per cent, compared with 0.1 per cent and 2 per cent respectively in 1994. Mr Lyons said that remortgaging accounted for 25 per cent of business, with the rest achieved as a result of a new range of mortgage products. He added that he expected the housing market to remain subdued, which meant a competitive mortgage market this year.

C&G, which was taken over by Lloyds Bank in August last year, pushed its share of net lending from 4.2 per cent to 10 per cent. Andrew Longhurst, chief executive, said that this was mostly due to cash offers, no valuation fees and a price promise. C&G had started its mortgage sales in Lloyds branches at the end of the year and hoped that the impact of this would be felt this year.

C&G now sells in 2,000 branches compared with 200 before its acquisition. Mr Longhurst said that following the takeover of TSB by Lloyds, C&G would be selling in 3,000 branches by the end of 1996. This would enable C&G to distribute mortgages to a larger customer base at modest extra cost, he added.

Profits before tax for the five months to December were £838 million. On a pro-forma basis for 1995, C&G's profits were up from £219.2 million to £246.7 million, in spite of an increase in bad debt provisions from £31.8 million to £43.7 million.

Lloyds unveils its 1995 figures today.

PowerGen is seeking deal for Scottish coal

By Our City Staff

POWERGEN, the electricity generator, is believed to be negotiating the purchase of up to one million tonnes of coal a year from Scotland.

The deal with Mining Scotland would account for a fifth of the country's coal production. PowerGen would take a minimum 600,000 tonnes a year, with options for more, to be shipped by rail to the Fiddler's Ferry and Ferrybridge power stations in Merseyside and Yorkshire.

Mining Scotland, based in Edinburgh, operates the Longannet pit and several opencast mines. The company declined to reveal any details of a possible deal with PowerGen, but a spokesman said: "It is no secret we have been talking to them, but there is no ink to dry."

PowerGen was also tight-lipped yesterday and would only say: "We cannot comment on contracts with suppliers, which are covered by commercial confidentiality clauses."

At present, most of Mining Scotland's output goes to Scottish Power's Longannet power station in Fife.

Emotional extremes hurt Europe debate, says CBI

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday attacked "emotional extremes" over Europe and called for a balanced argument over the issues that affect UK business.

The CBI insisted that business interests must not be lost in the heated political debate about proposals for European economic and monetary union and Britain's place in Europe.

Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, called on business to focus on the key issues it faced over Europe and to avoid the emotional extremes clouding the subject.

Speaking in London to the European Movement Business Forum, Mr Turner warned against approaching the issue of Europe "with either a strong federalist vision which seeks integration as an end in itself or with an aggressively anti-Europe stance, which exploits present difficulties in some continental countries to cast doubt on the benefits UK membership of the EU has brought".

Mr Turner said: "Between Eurosceptic glee that Europe faces problems, and the Eurofanatic-speak that unless everything goes ahead as per Maastricht, then we slip back towards a divided continent, there's a real danger that the voice of balance and reason gets lost. But it is vital that that voice is heard."

Even if European monetary union did not go ahead in 1999, it would not mean the end of the European single market or prevent proceeding with EMU at a later date, he said.

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BR company sold to Scots buyout team

MANAGERS and employees of British Rail's track maintenance company in Scotland have bought the business.

The buyout, the largest rail privatisation north of the border so far, was hailed by the Government as a "significant milestone" in the transformation of the railways.

The Scotland Infrastructure Maintenance Company, which employs about 2,400 people, carries out engineering work on some 2,600 miles of track, including the Forth Bridge.

John Watts, minister for railways and roads, said: "This is another important moment in the revolution of Britain's railways.

"The sale of the British Rail Infrastructure Services is a crucial element of the rail privatisation programme."

Wheels in motion for Scania flotation

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

SCANIA, the world's fourth-largest truckmaker and UK market leader in heavy lorries, is to be floated off by its Swedish parent with a price tag of between £2.8 billion and £3.7 billion.

The sale of a 70 per cent stake by Investor, the industrial colossus controlled by the Wallenberg family, will be among the largest non-privatisation flotations attempted.

World demand for trucks over 16 tonnes, in which Scania specialises, appears to have peaked. But Scania has just completed the renewal of its model range and is rapidly increasing market share.

Last year, it sold 44,600 trucks and buses worldwide, an increase of 33 per cent. In Britain, its biggest market after Brazil, Scania sold 5,380 lorries, to take third place in the 16-tonnes-plus segment. But in January it overtook Volvo and Leyland DAF to take first place.

The company's net income during 1995 was Kr3.28 billion (£306 million), a 28 per cent rise on sales which were ahead 13 per cent to Kr34.9 billion (£3.26 billion).

In Europe, its biggest single market, Scania last year lifted its market share from 12.8 per cent to 14.7 per cent. The company has assembly plants in Holland, Sweden and France. It is also a big player in Latin America, manufacturing in Brazil, Argentina and Mexico.

Court told of Nadir money movements

'PPI used to transfer millions'

By Jon Ashworth

ASIL NADIR and his wealthy associates used Polly Peck International (PPI), to transfer millions of pounds in personal funds from northern Cyprus to Britain, a court heard yesterday.

Money paid locally to Unipac, a packaging subsidiary, was matched in London by PPI, which credited the funds in sterling to UK bank accounts. Turkish lira held on deposit in northern Cyprus accumulated interest at rates as high as 100 per cent, contributing vast sums to PPI.

Details of the money transfers emerged on the third day of the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, former financial adviser to Mr Nadir. Mrs Forsyth, 59, denies two counts of handling £400,000 in stolen funds.

Lawrence Tindale, one of four non-executive directors of PPI, told the court that the board agreed to the transfers on the basis that funds were equally matched. The Turkish lira was a "soft" currency at the mercy of high rates of inflation, and people in northern Cyprus "wanted to get their money out". They deposited large amounts of lira into local bank accounts and received the equivalent from a PPI subsidiary in London.

Mr Tindale told the jury that the sums had sometimes run into millions of pounds. Those involved included members of the Nadir family and other local businessmen.

The court heard that interest on funds available to Unipac provided "substantial" profits, which were fed into the PPI accounts. The catch was that there was no certainty that interest payments would be honoured.

The court heard that Mr Tindale and his fellow directors had spent several months trying to tackle a "shortage of cash" at PPI in the months before the group went into administration in October 1990. The trial continues.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Imro fines second Finlay firm £17,500

A CITY watchdog has fined a second company within the James Finlay banking group for serious rule breaches. Imro, the regulator for fund managers, yesterday fined James Finlay Investment Management (JFIM) £17,500, plus £23,500 in costs, for failing to keep proper records and for not supplying accurate information to Imro. The offences occurred between October 1992 and December 1994. On the charge of failing to provide accurate information, Imro said that JFIM stated that it carried out monitoring procedures on a regular basis and that compliance arrangements had been effective "when this was not the case".

Last November, Imro fined Warne Investment and Financial Services, also part of the James Finlay group, £80,000 — more than a year's worth of profits — and ordered it to pay £25,000 in costs. JFIM has £109 million of funds under mangement and some 2,000 customers. The company declined to comment yesterday.

Rom Data inquiry

OFFICERS involved in the joint investigation between the Serious Fraud Office and Devon and Cornwall police into Rom Data, the failed West Country computer company that crashed after receiving £850,000 of taxpayers' money, are to fly to Cork in the Irish Republic next week to interview two former directors, John Dawson and his wife Elizabeth. The police have completed interviewing former employees of Rom Data, many of whom were owed wages when the company collapsed.

Competitors sue AT&T

BELL ATLANTIC and DSC Communications have filed a $3.5 billion lawsuit against AT&T, claiming that it monopolised the market for equipment, software and caller ID services. The companies allege that AT&T is delaying and preventing the use of inteconnecting plugs needed by vendors such as DSC. AT&T is accused of "sabotaging" interface standards to connect other manufacturers' equipment to telephone switches. The lawsuit seeks to recover damages, including lost profits, for the period when AT&T was engaged in blocking information.

Hornby warning

HORNBY Group, the toymaker, said profits for the 15 months to March 31 would be below stock market expectations. This follows the disposal of Fletcher International Sports Boats, a loss-making subsidiary, for £315,000, giving rise to an asset write-off of £2.9 million and a £1.3 million charge against goodwill. Results would also be burdened by net provisions of £700,000 relating to the write-off of an investment in America and severance payments. Malcolm Thomas will step down as chairman. Peter Newey, chief executive, will succeed him.

Williams venture

WILLIAMS GROUP is to establish a joint venture in China between Yale Locks, part of its security products division, and Guangdong Guli Locks. The venture will manufacture more than 25 million locks a year and employ around 4,000 people. It will have an initial total investment of £35 million. Williams, which will have management control, will have a 45 per cent interest in the new company. Guangdong Guli will have 40 per cent interest and the American International Group will hold the final 15 per cent.

Unilever's Chilean deal

UNILEVER has agreed to buy Consorcio Agro-Industrial de Malloa, a Santiago food business, from a Chilean subsidiary of BAT Industries, Empresas CCT, for $102 million in cash. Completion of the sale is expected by the end of this month. Malloa is one of Chile's leading food companies. It has 700 full-time employees producing and marketing tomato-based products and canned fruit and vegetables. Five companies are understood to have bid for the firm, with Empresas CCT narrowing the list to Unilever and Heinz.

Slough to sell in Sydney

SLOUGH ESTATES has exchanged conditional contracts to sell its four properties in Sydney for A$115 million (£57 million) to Equitable Property Trust, a fund managed by Colonial Mutual. The sale price of the 1.66 million sq ft is near to its book value, the company said. Slough Estates recently sold its Adelaide properties, raising A$13 million and will also soon sell its Melbourne properties. It will use the money to reinvest in the UK, continental Europe and North America where it said it sees "better opportunities to expand".

BTR $80m acquisition

BTR, the UK engineering company, has acquired the vibration control division of America's GenCorp Inc for $80 million. The division, a leading manufacturer of vibration control components for cars and light lorries, has annual turnover of more than $150 million and employs about 1,200 people. It will form part of BTR's anti-vibration systems group, whose existing operations are in Brazil, Germany, Britain and Spain, establishing an enlarged group with turnover of $550 million.

Saab reduces aircraft losses

SAAB, the Swedish aircraft maker that has teamed with British Aerospace to offer its JAS 39 Gripen fighter in export markets, cut losses from Kr522 million to Kr354 million (£33.1 million) last year.

The improvement was aided by increased revenues from defence, as the Gripen programme shifted into the production phase. Some 14 of the single-engine, high-agility jets have now been delivered to the Swedish Air Force.

But the civil aircraft side, building the high-speed, 50-seat Saab 2000 turboprop and the Saab 340 30-seater continued to lose money. Group sales totalled 63 per cent ahead at Kr7.92 billion.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.14	1.98
Austria Sch	16.88	15.38
Belgium Fr	49.44	45.14
Canada $	2.230	2.070
Cyprus Cyp£	0.758	0.703
Denmark Kr	9.35	8.55
Finland Mkk	7.63	6.98
France Fr	8.19	7.54
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	393.00	366.00
Hong Kong $	12.55	11.55
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1800	4.5300
Italy Lira	2550.00	2395.00
Japan Yen	177.10	161.10
Malta	0.594	0.539
Netherlds Gld	2.681	2.451
New Zealand $	2.43	2.21
Norway Kr	10.46	9.66
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.50
S Africa Rd	6.17	5.57
Spain Pta	197.50	184.50
Sweden Kr	11.33	10.53
Switzerland Fr	1.87	1.79
Turkey Lira	98618.0	94318.0
USA $	1.638	1.506

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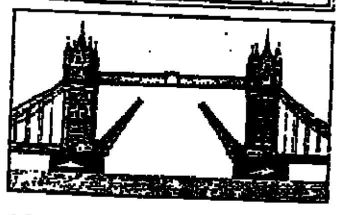
☐ Farnell debate highlights fund managers' dilemma ☐ Further price falls in prospect ☐ Granada's swoop is the prelude to a bid

Standard bearer for change

PENNINGTON



☐ THE paradox that arises from the scrap over a fairly insignificant Yorkshire distributor of electronic components is that the decision by some City institutions to break cover comes after years of criticism for their supine and unprincipled behaviour.

Time after time, especially on issues like executive pay and share options and at annual meetings such as British Gas last year, the private shareholders have been baying for management blood. But the institutions have always, with apologies to Cedric the pig, saved their bacon.

Now some of those bodies have come forward for the first time to push their views in public, and have been criticised for it. With all due respect to Farnell's US ambitions, this is the most interesting aspect of the battle to force through the £1.8 billion bid for Premier.

Standard Life's decision to go public with its opposition to the deal was an attempt to head off yet another rubber-stamping exercise. For this the Scottish institution deserves a double vote of thanks from shareholders, for not only raising the level of the debate about the deal itself but also bringing the whole issue of institutional accountability back on the City's agenda.

The selective use of publicity, as practised by Standard Life and Mercury Asset Management at the close of the Forte-Granada bid battle, is not a solution to the problems of transparency in itself. In many ways it creates a situation that is more confusing for companies and shareholders, with certain institutions employing tactical releases of information to bolster their positions while others adhere religiously to the old traditions of secrecy.

There is a risk that this will lead to powerful institutions "steamrolling" decisions, a practice that companies themselves are banned from using. The obvious alternative, obliging all institutions to go public, is not a sensible course of action either.

Any regulatory measures would face bitter opposition from the institutions, fearful that breaking the bond of confidentiality with companies would undermine the system of nods and winks that allows them privileged information. It is also impractical; large institutions have to react to hundreds of deals, bids and results every day, and to justify every one would be horribly time consuming.

But some fund managers, such as Standard Life, are groping towards a viable solution. They say an annual statement of aims by an institution would provide a yardstick by which investors could measure the actions of fund managers.

Inevitably the statement would need to be inclusive, but it would allow investors to demand explanations of subsequent behaviour that apparently contravened that stated policy. The mundane day-to-day decision-taking could carry on as before, but institutions would become increasingly accountable for their more controversial actions.

Bargaining power

☐ KENNETH Clarke is relying heavily on British consumers to restore the "feel-good" factor and his party's electoral fortunes, but whether they can deliver the goods is still one of the most contentious economic issues around.

Mervyn King, the Bank of England's director of economics, this week succinctly described the chasm between two different types of consumer. There is the individual still burdened with the high levels of debt left over from the 1980s whose income has barely kept up with inflation, low as this has been, and who may perhaps also be suffering from negative equity. But there are also those lucky souls who will benefit from large one-off payments as their building societies are taken over or from a maturing Tessa and suddenly enjoy some serious disposable income.

Whether Mr Clarke succeeds in getting the 3 per cent growth he has forecast will depend on which group proves more powerful. But one thing is undeniable. The British consumer is getting value for money like never before because of a Mexican wave of competition rolling across all areas of retailing. January's headline inflation rate fell to its lowest level for more than a year partly because of vicious price competition between electrical goods retailers.

Inflation is likely to fall even further in February as the temperature of the petrol and supermarket price wars heats up another notch. As soon as the Government slaps extra duty on petrol, so suppliers seem to match it with discounts. A cut of four to five pence a litre, an estimate from the Central Statistical Office in February, should take 0.3 per cent off headline inflation for that month.

And then there are the supermarkets. After a demolition derby of price cutting in January, more is to come. One chain is offering another bonus month, another is promising 1986 prices to its customers. And the retail prices index doesn't even pick up those savings earned through loyalty cards. With building societies cutting mortgage rates to win market share and insurers stunned into efficiencies by the success of outfits like Direct Line, there seems no end to the benefits to be enjoyed by consumers. But will it all be enough at the polling booths?

Programme trading

☐ THE elaborate cat's cradle that connects the various independent television contractors was always going to have to be disentangled one day. Granada's dawn raid on Yorkshire is in the nature of a pre-emptive sword stroke across those strings.

The permutations were endless — witness the heated speculation when dealers learned of the dawn raid but not the identity of the raider. Was it Carlton, grabbing a chunk of Yorkshire ahead of a deal with MAI that would swap Carlton's remaining shares in Meridian, where MAI has the majority, for MAI's 14 per cent of Yorkshire? Alternatively, if it was Granada buying, would this prompt Carlton to go for MAI, scuppering last week's merger with United News & Media?

Anyone still following this should be aware that there are at least two other ITV contractors also up for grabs and with large stakes held elsewhere, Scottish and HTV. What this frantic activity is all about is taking positions ahead of this summer's relaxation of rules on TV ownership, which will allow any one company to own 15 per cent of the audience including satellite, cable and the BBC, and preparing for the next franchise round.

The big TV companies, like the Sunday retailers a couple of years ago, have decided that if the law is going to change, they might as well anticipate this and get in before the competition. MAI and United needed a parking orbit for the Express titles ahead of relaxation of cross-media ownership rules; Granada has likewise warehoused for now the small percentage of Yorkshire shares it is not yet allowed to own, but this is still a takeover waiting to happen.

This is all of doubtful morality, and the Independent Television Commission for one is far from pleased. As to the 1999 franchise round, Granada and Yorkshire combined would be making almost half of all the programmes supplied to the ITV network, a commanding position. No one ever accused Gerry Robinson of not thinking ahead.

Shell ready to make big cuts in capacity

By Our City Staff

SHELL, Europe's largest oil refiner, is considering a reduction in capacity of about 30 per cent through closures and disposals.

John Jennings, chairman of Shell Transport and Trading, said yesterday a restructuring of the company's refineries "is a serious and high priority issue". Discussions had reached a "delicate" stage.

Industry analysts believe the Berre l'Etang refinery, the smaller of Shell's two plants in France, could be closed. In the UK, a reduction in capacity would be most likely to affect Shellhaven, with capacity to process 92,000 barrels of crude per day (bpd). The larger Stanlow refinery, with capacity of 262,000 bpd, is likely to be reprieved.

Shell is Europe's largest refiner, with regional capacity of more than 1.6 million bpd through 12 refineries, just ahead of Exxon Corp. British Petroleum has already taken action to reduce overcapacity in refining and Mr Jennings said he expected the pressure on worldwide refining margins to continue.

Yesterday Shell reported a £300 million rise in net income to a record £4.4 billion for 1995, although fourth-quarter income was reduced to £851 million from £1.117 billion because of a downturn in chemicals and rising supply costs. The total dividend rises to 33.3p from 27.1p on earnings per share of 47.8p against 45p in 1994.

Manufacturing, marine and marketing earnings had been affected by depressed profit margins throughout the year, the group said. Crude oil production of 2.3 million barrels a day was 3 per cent higher than in 1994 and natural gas sales were up 4 per cent. The group remains optimistic about prospects. Crude oil production is expected to increase, with higher oil volumes planned in Europe and in the US, where new developments in the Gulf of Mexico will more than offset declines from maturing onshore fields, Shell said.

Crude oil prices last year were on average $1.25 a barrel higher than in 1994.

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City Diary, page 27

Port dispute sees Mersey Docks slip

A PROLONGED and bitter industrial dispute at the Port of Liverpool has so far cost Mersey Docks and Harbour Company £4 million and contributed to a decline in pre-tax profits to £31.7 million from £33.6 million in 1995 (Martin Barrow writes).

Industrial action began when 80 men dismissed from an independent stevedoring company established a picket line, which 329 Mersey Docks port workers refused to cross. They were dismissed and a new workforce was recruited. The original workers subsequently rejected an £8 million settlement package.

Pre-tax profits were further affected by a £3.3 million loss at Eurolink, Mersey's ferry operation. Earnings fell to 24.48p a share from 25.33p, with a final dividend of 7.85p for a total of 11.5p, rising from 10.5p.

Tempus, page 26

Airtours in £60m acquisition

AIRTOURS, the UK's second largest tour operator, has acquired Simon Spies Holdings, which has a 40 per cent share of the Danish holiday market, for a total of £60 million (Marianne Curphey writes).

It is also expected to make an announcement soon on a deal with Carnival Corp, America's largest cruise group, which will lead to Carnival taking a stake of up to 30 per cent in Airtours.

Spies' tour business and hotels were bought from Conair Consolidated Aircraft by Airtours' subsidiary company Scandinavian Leisure Group for £10 million in cash. It also spent £50 million on aircraft and assets which had previously been leased.

Spies carried 570,000 passengers last year, and in the 12 months to December 31 made an operating profit of £600,000.

Philips gives warning in spite of record

From Mark Fuller in Eindhoven

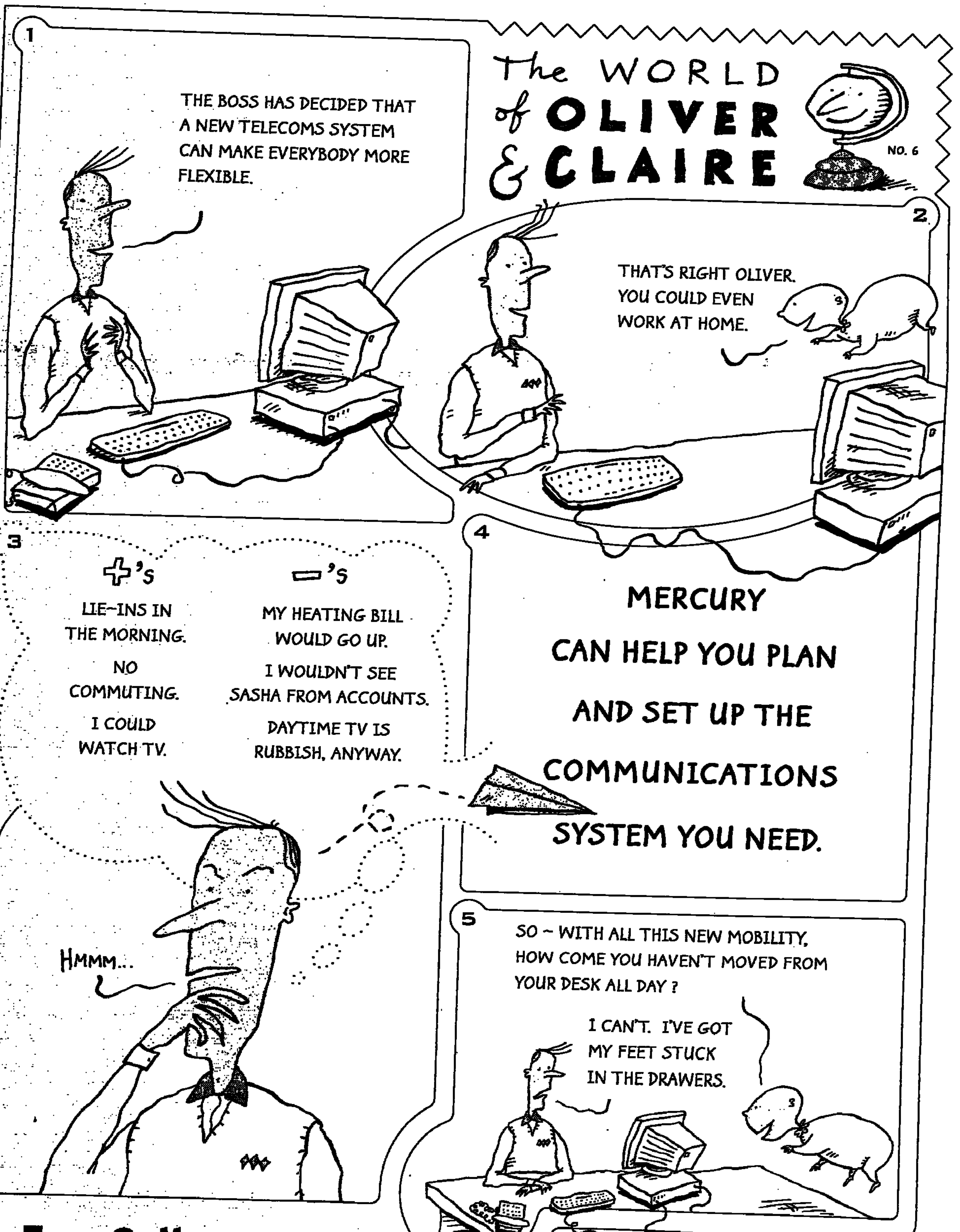
PHILIPS yesterday reported record net earnings and sales in 1995, but gave warning that its consumer electronics business was still in the doldrums.

Net profit on ordinary activities rose to 2.684 billion guilders £1.06 billion) last year from Fl 2.049 billion, on turnover 6 per cent higher at Fl 64.5 billion.

Jan Timmer, the president, who will be succeeded by Cor Boonstra in October, said the results were "a nice leaving gift for an old man who has worked hard". The group was particularly satisfied with a 16 per cent rise in earnings per share, he said.

The record results reflected growth at the components and semiconductors division, where operating profit rose Fl 600 million to Fl 2.2 billion, and a strong performance in lighting. Consumer electronics, accounting for roughly one third of turnover, saw operating profit decline by Fl 331 million to Fl 118 million. Losses at Grundig, the German subsidiary, and continuing price erosion in Europe prevented a recovery in this division.

Tempus, page 26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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Rate cut pressure pushes shares near all-time high

MOUNTING pressure for a cut in interest rates sent share prices to within a whisker of their all-time high. The FT-SE 100 index closed at its best of the day at 3,779.8, a rise of 34.8, in spite of a lacklustre performance overnight on Wall Street. Turnover reached more than 800 million shares.

It followed further bullish news for Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, with inflation below 3 per cent in January. Dealers said it provided evidence that there was further scope for a cut in interest rates. Initial reaction to the findings of the Scott inquiry was also favourably received.

BET, the cleaning, security and building services group, surged 34½p to a new high of 184½p after Rentokil confirmed market whispers that it had approached the company with a view to making an agreed bid. City speculators claim Rentokil will have to pay around 200p a share, valuing BET at £1.9 billion. The size of the bid means the terms are expected to be a mixture of cash and shares.

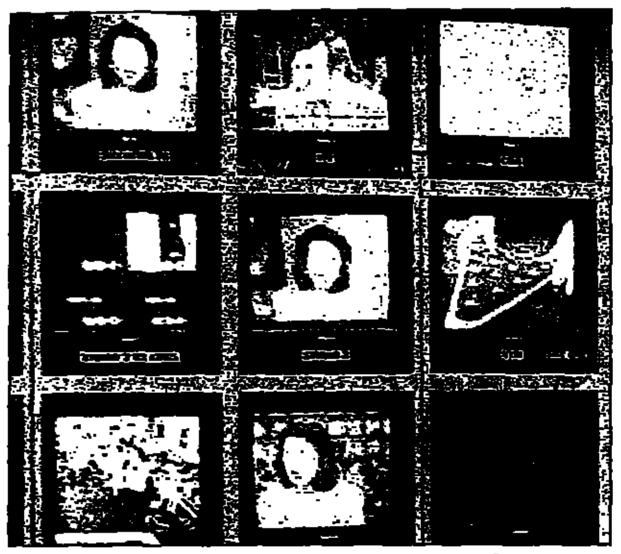
Rentokil shares responded with a fall of 26p to 336½p, with brokers worried about the expected earnings dilution. Clive Thompson, chief executive, has set himself a target of at least 20 per cent earnings growth per annum.

Brokers were alerted to the possibility of a bid for BET by the high level of turnover in its shares. An inquiry by the Stock Exchange is expected to be launched into possible insider trading.

Granada extended its recent spending spree by spending £31.58 million on increasing its stake in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television. In a dawn raid carried out by ABN Amro Hoare Govett and BZW it picked up a further 3.15 million shares, or 6.12 per cent of the company, at £10 a share. A joint venture company controlled by Granada and Lazard Brothers also picked-up 2 million shares, amounting to 3.88 per cent.

Yorkshire responded to the move with a leap of 150p to £10.17, with the warrants adding 158p at 825p. The move increases Granada's direct holding from 13.87 per cent to almost 20 per cent.

Granada emphasised it was not poised to make a full bid unless someone else moved. Brokers said it was a blocking motion designed to deter other bidders, while it is in the process of disposing of the luxury hotels it inherited from Forte. **Granada** finished 9½p dearer at 734½p.



TV companies benefited from Granada's shares raid yesterday

The move by Granada focused speculative attention on the rest of the media sector, with **Scottish Television** 57p higher at 685p, **Pearson** up 27p at 706p, **BSkyB** 7p dearer at 391p, **Mirror Group** 6p dearer at 209p, and **Golden Rose** 11p better at 64p. **MAI**, which last week agreed a £2.9 billion merger with United News & Media, jumped 24p to 446p, with the speculators still holding out for another company to bid. **United News** was 7p better at 639p.

Bid speculation was also revived in **Yorkshire Electricity** where the price stood out with a rise of 17p to 733p as more than 1.5 million shares changed hands. Merrill Lynch Smith New Court, the broker, was said to be an aggressive buyer. Yorkshire is one of the few remaining electricity distributors not to have received a bid approach. The others include **East Midland**, up 6p at 730p, and **London**, 3p firmer at 748p.

Shire Pharmaceuticals enjoyed a spectacular stock market debut with the shares climbing above the 200p level in first-time trading. The group, which specialises in prescription medicines for age-related diseases, ended at 218p, a premium of 43p over the original placing price of 175p. By the close 6.54 million shares had changed hands.

There was a distinct sigh of relief reverberating around Wetherby after **Farnell Electronics** was given the go-ahead to proceed with its proposed £1.8 billion acquisition of Premier Industries in the US. An extraordinary general meeting voted 84 per cent in favour of allowing the bid to proceed. There had been resistance from institutional shareholders, who felt the group was paying too much. Farnell firmed 2p to 639p.

Abbey National climbed 22p to 613p, cheered by some bumper profits from the National & Provident Building Society with which it is to merge shortly. **Lloyds TSB** also added 11p at 347p, supported by five-month results from Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society showing pre-tax profits up from £127.4 million to almost £200 million.

A downturn in fourth-quarter profits left **Shell** nursing a fall of 12½p to 869p. As with BP earlier this week, a firmer crude oil price was countered by a slump in profits from its chemicals division, and rising supply costs in its downstream activities. As a result net income during the year fell from £4.37 billion to £4 billion. But Shell offset the disappointment over the profits setback with a 28 per cent hike in the payout to 20.4p. **BP** ended 4p cheaper at 534p.

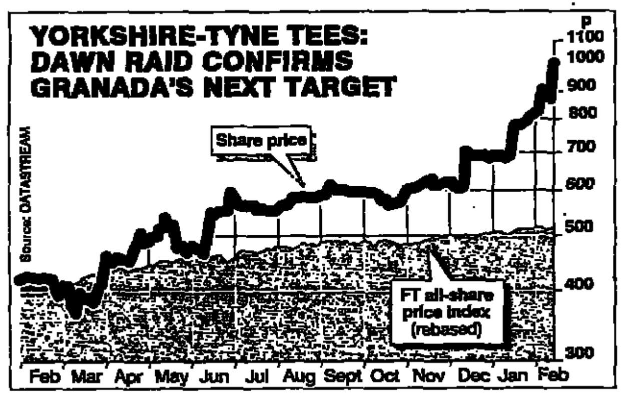
William Jacks continued to reel from Wednesday's profits warning with a fall of 15p to 38p. The group forecast a final figure of at least £600,000, down from £795,000 last time.

Hornby, the model railway group, has disposed of its loss-making sports boat business. This helped offset news of a profits warning and lifted the shares 17p to 170p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices closed mixed with support directed at the ten-year level on hopes of a rate cut. Longer-dated issues finished a touch softer where changed. Brokers said the inflation fall had been anticipated but was still considered positive. In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt firmed three ticks to close at £108¹⁵⁄₁₆ as 52,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 slipped a tick to £100, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 added £⅛ to £104¹¹⁄₃₂.

☐ **NEW YORK:** A rally in IBM shares kept the Dow industrials higher in what would otherwise have been a flat morning's trading. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 7.59 points, at 5,587.14.

CRH traded at a peak of 515p after addressing about 40 fund managers at building products seminar arranged by Kleinwort Benson, the broker. Harry Sheridan, finance director, says the group will continue to achieve its target of 15 per cent earnings growth and 12 per dividend growth per annum.



Source: DATASTREAM

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	5587.14 (+7.59)
S&P Composite	656.21 (+0.63)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20886.19 (-57.40)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11471.81 (+107.35)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	511.16 (+0.43)
Sydney:	
AO	2298.5 (-2.3)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2423.01 (-4.06)
Singapore:	
Straits	2439.21 (+37.42)
Brussels:	
General	8734.29 (-15.61)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1964.21 (+7.83)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	730.40 (+0.20)
London:	
FT 30	2763.8 (+25.1)
FT 100	3779.8 (+34.8)
FT-SE Mid 250	4189.1 (+27.4)
FT-SE-A 350	1882.1 (+16.2)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1537.62 (-11.45)
FT A All-Share	1856.23 (+15.19)
FT Non Financials	1957.11 (+12.95)
FT Fixed Interest	112.72 (-0.34)
FT Govt Secs	94.32 (-0.01)
Bargains	34160
SEAQ Volume	906.7m
USM (Datastrm)	202.69 (+0.99)
US$	1.5375 (-0.0010)
German Mark	2.2617 (+0.0020)
Exchange Index	84.2 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1956
£:SDR	1.0529
RPI	150.2 Jan (2.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.3 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Ballynatray Hldgs	6	...
Century Inns (120)	122	+ 1
Clubhaus (7½)	8	...
Clubhaus Wts	3¾	- 1¼
Dmatek	70	- 1
Ex-Lands Prop (7½)	14	...
Ex-Lands Prop Wts	9	...
MediaKey (60)	64	- 1
Nthn Petlm Wts	8	...
Optical Care (Brmd)	71	+ 1
Revelation Plcc	105	...
Self Sealing Sys (54)	53	...
Shire Pharms (175)	218	...
SkyePharma B Wts	9	+ ½
Viewinn	185	- 5

RIGHTS ISSUES

Innvtv Tech n/p (70)	30	...
Oxford MI n/p (235)	96	+ 5

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Austin Reed	204p (+18p)
Scot TV	685p (+57p)
Photo-Me	166p (+13p)
Frost Group	153p (+10p)
Vero Gp	251p (+15p)
Real Time	210p (+12p)
HTV Group	370p (+20p)
MAI	446p (+24p)
Unitech	521p (+24p)
S & U	353p (+14p)
Tottenhm Hot	279p (+11p)
Chrysalis	430p (+16p)
Abbey National	613p (+22p)
Electrocomponts	381p (+10p)
Ryl Bk Scot	567p (+14p)
BAA	509p (+12p)
Lloyds Abbey	518p (+12p)
Nat West	676p (+15p)
Ladbroke	181p (+8p)
Cortecs	261p (+8p)
David Smith	305p (+8p)
Gen Accident	646p (+20p)
FALLS:	
Telspec	690p (-15p)
Invesco	276p (-8p)
Mitel	381p (-9p)
Biocomps Intl	539p (-9p)
Britannic	744p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Rats on the treadmill

HAVING made a name for itself catching rats and mice, Rentokil wants to pursue bigger game but investors would probably be better off without trophies. No-one can accuse Rentokil of reticence when it comes to making acquisitions. The group chalked up an impressive growth record acquiring dull, badly run service businesses and squeezing more profit out of them by raising prices and service levels.

However, BET is no more than another collection of service businesses, not noticeably underperforming. A likely price of £1.9 billion — assuming the bid is to have BET's blessing — will certainly mean that Rentokil will have to issue some paper. The question is whether that paper will carry the high value that Rentokil's shares enjoy.

Rentokil has impressive management skills and its track record of improving the margins of its new businesses is so far unbroken. But the ambitious target of 20 per cent per annum growth makes the company a hostage to fortune and such goals cannot be won indefinitely. BET does make sense for Rentokil: there is scope for margin improvement in the business and room for streamlining. However, BET had already embarked upon the job with plans for disposal of some businesses and add higher value operations.

Acquisition of BET will propel Rentokil firmly into the conglomerate stakes. BET shareholders stand to gain a premium but it is less clear how Rentokil will reward its own shareholders who will demand ever more from the larger group. If they are to be satisfied, Rentokil may have embarked on a Hanson-like treadmill.

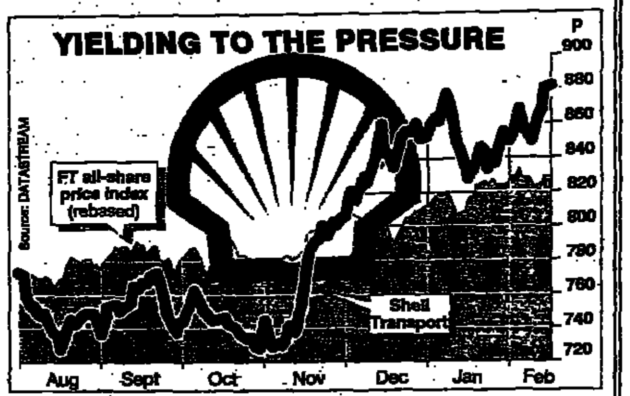
Shell Transport

SHELL seemed to be talking about two different companies yesterday. On the one hand, it raised the dividend a thumping 23 per cent, indicated an increase of capital expenditure to £8 billion and spoke confidently of a 15 per cent return on capital target.

Yet the same company reported appalling fourth-quarter results. Profits from chemicals were decimated and the outlook for refining and marketing remains weak. Shell's upstream businesses are not replacing the oil and gas pumped out of the ground at an ever more rapid rate and the whole operation is earning a meagre return of 10.6 per cent.

The increased payout looks defensive rather than an emblem of confidence and will take up more than 70 per cent of earnings. While Shell has the cash — some £7 billion of liquid funds — to maintain high levels of dividend, much of it has been generated from disposals rather than profits from operations. Over the past five years the oil company has shed assets worth about £4 billion.

If Shell was really keen to raise its rate of return, it could do so by giving capital back to shareholders, money on deposit which is currently earning just 4 per cent. Shell has reconciled itself to the notion that smaller can be beautiful — hence the shrinking of head office — but it needs to act more quickly in areas like refining. A useful model could be its own US subsidiary, Shell Oil.



Source: DATASTREAM

Philips

THE only disappointment in Philips's results was the performance of the consumer electronics sector, where sales rose slightly but operating income plummeted.

Philips put most of the blame on the continued weakness in its Grundig unit, which was hit by low demand and continuing price pressure in Europe. Fortunately for Philips, and for its shareholders, it is already doing something about the loss-making Grundig. Earlier this month it planned to lay off some 3,000 workers, about a quarter of its staff. Philips also said that from next year it will no longer automatically plug Grundig's losses. It has done so since 1984 because of an agreement struck with the Grundig family in exchange for their 32 per cent stake.

Jan Timmer, Philips's chairman, said yesterday, at his last results announcement before he stands down in October, that Grundig may break even next year.

Failure will leave Philips with a stark choice. It will have to sell the Grundig stake, or it will have to once again move production out of expensive Germany and into other, cheaper, countries. However good Philips's results in other areas, it cannot go on reporting disasters in a core business.

Mersey Docks

WITHOUT the labour dispute, Mersey Docks shares would be a strong buy. Tonnage figures released yesterday indicate that the port is bustling and, but for the six-week shutdown, container traffic would have been up 14 per cent, because of two new customers.

Port traffic gently grows with the rate of increase in GDP, but the real story behind the growth of the larger ports groups is the gradual takeover of business from small ports and joint venture developments with customers. Britain is overserved with small ports, but the abolition of the Dock Labour Scheme has enabled the large ports, such as Southampton and Liverpool, to invest in new terminals and build storage facilities for customers.

Mersey Docks invested £42 million last year in its ports, including phase one of the Sheerness produce terminal. The new facilities at Medway showed up at once in a boost in fruit tonnages. More investment is planned at Liverpool, including a new terminal for Irish Sea traffic at Trafalgar Docks.

The strike has enabled Mersey Docks to improve productivity at its container terminal, an unfortunate irony for the sacked dockers. Earnings could grow in double digits this year, and Mersey Docks is hoping its former employees may still take the settlement on offer. The shares are worth buying.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	920-919	May	1030 BID
May	943-942	Jul	unq
Jul	966-965	Sep	—
Sep	985-984	Dec	—
Dec	1001-1000		
Mar	1022 SLR		Volume: 13414

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	2160-2155	Nov	1855-1850
May	1970-1969	Jan	1830-1815
Jul	1905-1902	Mar	1810-1790
Sep	1873-1870		Volume: 4420

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	309.3-07.4
Spot: 393.5		Mar	304.5-03.5
May	373.0-72.0	May	301.4-00.4
Aug	350.5-49.5	Aug	unq
Oct	318.8-16.0		Volume: 1511

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 14

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	109.61	130.17	119.16
(+/-)	-1.94	-1.43	-1.70
Eng/Wales:	109.61	130.95	118.46
(+/-)	-1.94	-1.96	-1.83
(%)	+8.0	+23.0	+21.0
Scotland:	unq	128.68	123.18
(+/-)	—	+1.96	-2.48
(%)	—	-139.0	+79.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.10	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	17.10	n/c
Brent 15 day (May)	16.50	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	18.20	-0.10
W Texas Intermediate (May)	17.80	-0.10

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 173 (-2)	O: 175 (-2)
Gasoil EEC	184 (-10)	187 (-9)
Non EEC 1H Mar	173 (-7)	175 (-7)
Non EEC 1H Apr	164 (+1)	166 (+1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	89 (-3)	91 (-3)
Naphtha	169 (n/c)	171 (-1)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	164.50-64.75	Jun	148.75-49.00
Apr	155.00-55.25	Jul	148.50-48.75
May	150.75-51.00		Vol: 22307

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	17.07-17.08	Jul	16.17 SLR
May	16.53-16.54	Aug	n/a
Jun	16.27-16.31		Vol: 20053

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	118.35	Mar	108.40
May	120.70	May	109.50
Jul	122.65	Sep	106.00
Sep	110.75	Nov	108.25
Nov	112.40	Jan	110.50
Volume: 685		Volume: 180	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	200.0
Apr	189.0	196.5
May	unq	215.0
		Volume: 39

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Mar 107.00-107.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 96	1445	1440	1443
Mar 96	1465	1429	1465
Apr 96	1456	1414	1455
Jul 96	1332	1320	1332

Vol: 199 lots Open Interest: 4500

Index 1440 -5

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)			Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2528.5-2529.0	3mth: 2498.0-2499.0	Vol: 1402475
Lead ($/tonne)	771.00-772.00	771.00-772.00	145275
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1041.0-1042.0	1061.0-1062.0	680575
Tin ($/tonne)	6210.0-6215.0	6270.0-6275.0	21695
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1612.0-1612.5	1643.0-1644.0	1424625
Nickel ($/tonne)	8260.0-8265.0	8365.0-8370.0	62628

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Dom	500	35	43½	51½	6¼	15½	18¼
(*524½)	550	9½	18	28	30¼	43	45½
Argyll	300	21	27¼	31	5½	14	16¼
(*312½)	330	6½	13	17	23	31	33
ASDA	100	9	11½	14	2½	4	6
(*105½)	110	4	6½	9	7	8½	10½
Boots	600	25	36	44	12½	24	29¼
(*606½)	650	6½	14¼	22¼	45	55	59
Br Airways	500	25	36½	44½	10	20½	25
(*510)	550	5½	14½	22½	41½	50½	53½
BP	500	37	46	52	4½	10¼	14
(*537½)	550	8½	19¼	26	26½	32	37¼
Br Steel	160	14	18	20	2½	8	10
(*170)	180	4	8	10½	12½	19½	21½
C & W	460	22½	33	41½	16¼	26	30
(*461)	500	9	17½	25	42½	50¼	57½
CU	600	21½	33½	41	24	32	41½
(*607)	650	4	15½	22½	62	66½	73½
ICI	800	31½	49	57½	22	31	42
(*821½)	850	9	26	34½	57½	60	70
Kingfishr	500	32½	40¼	49½	11	20	25
(*521)	550	8	17½	26½	42	48½	52½
Land Sec	600	29½	37	41½	6	18	21
(*618½)	650	6	11½	17½	33	48½	51
M & S	420	22½	29	34½	6½	14	17
(*432)	460	4½	10½	16	29½	37½	39½
Nat West	650	32½	48½	57½	19	27	30¼
(*675½)	700	11	26	35	50	55½	64½
Sainsbury	360	32½	37	42	2¼	8½	11
(*386)	390	13	18½	25	13	21½	24½
Shell	850	32	38½	47½	20	27½	33½
(*867½)	900	7½	16	25	54½	58¼	63½
Smkl Bch	700	46	61½	72	8½	18	23½
(*734½)	750	17½	33½	44½	31	41½	46½
Storehse	300	19	27	31½	6	12	15
(*309½)	330	5½	12½	17½	23	28	31
Trafalgar	35	5	7½	9	3½	6	7
(*37)	40	3	5½	7	6½	9	10
Unilever	1250	51½	66½	88½	18	28	32
(*1255)	1300	23½	39½	60	44½	53½	57
Zeneca	1250	42½	75½	95	39¼	58	66½
(*1259½)	1300	22	53	72½	72½	87½	97
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met	420	36	47	56	0	4½	12
(*455½)	460	4	21¼	31½	8	18½	28
Ladbroke	180	5½	14½	21½	3½	15	19½
(*181)	200	0½	8	14	19	28	32
Utd Bisc	220	17	21¼	26	0	7	9½
(*236½)	240	2½	10	16	5¼	17½	19½

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA	500	22½	37½	42	9	17	21
(*510)	550	3½	11½	19	41	46½	49½
Thames W	500	44	51¼	54	3	13	18½
(*536½)	550	11¼	21	29½	21	38	41½
	Series	Feb	May	Aug	Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	17½	29	39	2	20½	30
(*567½)	600	0	10	20	34½	53½	61
BTR	300	29	30½	33½	0	3½	6
(*328½)	330	2½	9	15	3½	16	19
Br Aero	800	39	61	84	1	22	31½
(*837)	850	6	34	58	18	45½	55
Br Telcm	360	16¼	27½	35	0½	6	12½
(*376)	390	0½	11	18	14½	20	28
Cadbury	500	33	40	51¼	0	11	17
(*532½)	550	1½	13½	27	18½	37½	42½
Guinness	420	37	41½	47	0	5½	10
(*456½)	460	3½	15	21¼	6½	23	27½
GEC	360	15	27	33	0½	8	15½
(*374½)	390	0	11½	17	16	22	31
Hanson	180	7	12½	14½	1	6	9
(*186½)	191	1	—	—	6	—	—
LASMO	160	15½	20	26	0	5½	6½
(*175)	180	3	9	16½	6½	13	14
Lucas	180	14	18½	23½	0	4½	7½
(*193½)	200	1	7½	13	7	14	17
Pilkingtn	191	17	23½	27½	0	3	6½
(*208)	210	1¼	11½	16½	4½	10	14½
Prudential	420	30¼	36½	46½	0	10½	16½
(*450)	460	2	14	25½	14	30	36½
Redland	390	25	34¼	40	0	12½	17¼
(*414½)	420	3½	16½	24	8	27½	32½
R-Royce	200	12	17	22½	0½	6½	10½
(*211½)	220	1	7½	13	9½	17	21
Tesco	280	5½	14½	19½	3	13	15½
(*287½)	300	0	6	11	17½	26	28
Vodafone	220	8	18	24	1½	9	14
(*227)	240	0	9	14½	13½	20	25
Williams	330	7	16	20½	1	12½	15
(*339½)	360	0	4	8½	24½	33½	35

FT-SE INDEX (*3777½)

	3650	3700	3750	3800	3850	3900
Calls						
Feb	133	83	34	3½	1	1
Mar	146	104½	68½	40	20	9
Apr	157½	117½	87	61½	40	25½
May	175½	141½	110½	83	59	42
Jun	—	158	—	101	—	59½
Puts						
Feb	1	1	2	23	73	123
Mar	12½	21½	36	58½	90½	137½
Apr	30½	44	63	87	116½	152
May	46	62	80	103½	129½	163½
Jun	—	73	—	115½	—	175

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat	600	22½	35	47	18	27½	36
(*613)	650	4	16	26½	54½	60	66
Amstrad	200	18	27½	33½	5	11	13
(*214½)	220	7	17	24	14	20½	23
Barclays	800	20	36½	51½	22½	35	46
(*807)	850	3	17¼	31	61½	68	78½
Blue Circ	330	29½	34½	41	1½	11	14½
(*356½)	360	9½	16½	25	11½	25½	29
Br Gas	240	8½	13½	17½	6	15½	18½
(*241)	260	2	6	9½	19½	29½	31½
Dixons	420	27	42	49	4¼	13½	20
(*437½)	460	7	21	29	25	37½	40½
Forte	343	11	15½	19	1½	4	6¼
(*350)	373	1	4½	7½	23	23½	24½
Tarmac	110	10	14	16½	1½	5½	7½
(*118)	120	4	8½	12	5½	10½	12½
Hillsdwn	180	6½	9½	11	4½	11¼	14
(*181½)	200	0½	2½	5½	19½	20½	29½
Lonrho	200	8	15	19	5½	9½	12
(*201)	220	1½	7	10½	19½	22	23½
Sears	90	8½	10	11½	0½	2½	3¼
(*97½)	100	2	4½	6	4½	7½	8½
Thorn	1600	95	140½	163½	12½	34	54
(*1674)	1700	34	82	107¼	52	75½	99
Tomkins	260	18½	20½	30¼	2	6½	11
(*275)	280	6½	14¼	19	9½	14½	20½
Lloyds TSB	322	27½	31½	—	3½	9½	—
(*347)	352	7	15¼	—	17½	23½	—
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo W	900	59	75½	89	13½	23½	36½
(*948½)	950	26	47½	61½	35½	46	62
HSBC	1100	40	67	85	46½	63	77¼
(*1103½)	1150	20	47	64½	80	94	107¼
Reuter	650	55	70½	85	10½	20	26½
(*696½)	700	27½	41½	57	30½	41	48
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Royal Ins	360	17	26½	33½	10	23½	29½
(*367)	390	5½	14¼	21½	37	42	48
	Series	Mar	Jun		Mar	Jun	
Fisons	260	5	5	—	0½	0½	—
(*265)	280	0½	0½	—	15	19	—
	Series	Feb	May		Feb	May	
Eastrn Gp	950	26	39½	—	0½	0½	—
(*975)	1000	0	0½	—	25	25	—
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	460	24	37	42	5	14½	21
(*478½)	500	6	18	22	25½	36½	42½
Scot Pwr	360	22½	33	38	2½	7	13
(*378½)	390	6	15½	21	15	20	27½

February 15, 1996 Tot: 41899 Calls: 24078 Puts: 17821 FT-SE Calls: 6898 Puts: 4108

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 64142	Mar 96	3742.0	3789.0	3740.0	3784.0	11277
	Jun 96	3744.0	3779.0	3744.0	3788.5	328
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3311	Mar 96				4200.0	0
	Jun 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 400222	Mar 96	93.87	93.91	93.87	93.90	7931
	Jun 96	94.16	94.21	94.16	94.20	17975
	Sep 96	94.14	94.21	94.14	94.20	13414
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 0	Mar 96				94.83	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1078317	Mar 96	96.71	96.74	96.70	96.72	30675
	Jun 96	96.77	96.79	96.74	96.77	38892
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 136339	Mar 96	108-19	109-02	108-18	108-30	56807
	Jun 96	108-04	108-04	108-04	108-07	52
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 96	119.35	119.51	119.30	119.48	4889
	Jun 96	117.83	117.98	117.79	117.97	2802
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 266224	Mar 96	98.29	98.72	98.27	98.62	177286
	Jun 96	97.45	97.80	97.40	97.74	6569
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 24375	Mar 96	95.37	95.39	95.35	95.39	1305
	Jun 96	95.49	95.53	95.49	95.52	711
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 66024	Mar 96	98.21	98.27	98.21	98.23	3135
	Jun 96	98.08	98.14	98.07	98.11	4541
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 66291	Mar 96	109.50	109.55	108.87	109.26	77351
	Jun 96	108.80	109.00	108.58	108.87	1690

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¼ Finance Hse 6¾

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 6 Week fixed: 6¼

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 6⅛. Sell: 2 mth 6⅛; 3 mth 5³¹⁄₃₂.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6⁵⁄₁₆	6⅛-6⁵⁄₁₆	6⅛-5³¹⁄₃₂	5²⁹⁄₃₂-5²⁷⁄₃₂	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6
Interbank:	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6

Overnight: open 6⅛, close 6¼

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	6	5⅞
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6	6-5⅞
Dollar CDs:	5.21	n/a	5.14	5.00	4.90
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅛-4¹⁵⁄₁₆	5⅛-5⅛	5⅛-5	5⅛-4⅞	5-4
Deutschemark:	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	4-3
French Franc:	4⅝-4½	4⅝-4½	4⅝-4½	4⅝-4½	4½-3½
Swiss Franc:	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	1⅝-1½	2-1
Yen:	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $404.70-405.00 · Close: $403.40-403.90 High: $405.40-405.90 Low: $403.00-403.50 AM: $404.55 PM: $404.60

Krugerrand: $402.75-404.75 (£262.50-264.50)

Platinum: $423.40 (£275.45) Silver: $5.71 (£3.715) Palladium: $143.75 (£93.55)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 15	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5246-2.5338	2.5305-2.5338	⅝-½pr	2-1¾pr
Brussels	46.34-46.54	46.44-46.54	12-9pr	35-30pr
Copenhagen	8.7220-8.7520	8.7300-8.7520	1½-1pr	4½-3¾pr
Dublin	0.9696-0.9742	0.9705-0.9731	11-8pr	30-25pr
Frankfurt	2.2546-2.2615	2.2584-2.2615	⅝-½pr	1⅝-1½pr
Lisbon	234.45-235.43	234.79-235.43	26-52ds	82-124ds
Madrid	190.12-190.69	190.40-190.69	43-53ds	118-135ds
Milan	2440.9-2450.3	2443.7-2447.7	7-8ds	22-24ds
Montreal	2.1151-2.1241	2.1198-2.1218	0.20-0.12pr	0.41-0.30pr
New York	1.5352-1.5395	1.5374-1.5384	0.13-0.11pr	0.37-0.34pr
Oslo	9.8610-9.8830	9.8670-9.8820	1¼-⅝pr	3¼-2¾pr
Paris	7.7730-7.7930	7.7760-7.7890	1¼-1pr	3¼-2¾pr
Stockholm	10.674-10.724	10.682-10.706	⅝-⅞ds	⅝-⅞ds
Tokyo	162.57-163.51	163.24-163.51	⅝-⅝pr	2¼-2⅛pr
Vienna	15.850-15.917	15.891-15.917	⅝-⅝pr	1½-1pr
Zurich	1.8392-1.8458	1.8430-1.8458	⅝-⅝pr	2¼-2pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3232-1.3241
Austria	10.33-10.34
Belgium (Com)	30.20-30.24
Canada	1.3784-1.3789
Denmark	5.6850-5.6880
France	5.0640-5.0690
Germany	1.4695-1.4700
Hong Kong	7.7317-7.7327
Ireland	1.5813-1.5833
Italy	1589.00-1589.20
Japan	106.00-106.10
Malaysia	2.5428-2.5438
Netherlands	1.6462-1.6467
Norway	6.4243-6.4318
Portugal	152.91-153.01
Singapore	1.4125-1.4135
Spain	124.00-124.12
Sweden	6.9540-6.9615
Switzerland	1.1990-1.2000

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5359-1.5385
Australia dollar	2.0316-2.0343
Bahrain dinar	0.5745-0.5865
Brazil real*	1.5021-1.5063
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7070-0.7170
Finland markka	7.0025-7.1185
Greece drachma	369.50-376.50
Hong Kong dollar	11.8736-11.8828
India rupee	55.97-56.93
Indonesia rupiah	3502.00-3570.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4550-0.4650
Malaysia ringgit	3.9050-3.9091
New Zealand dollar	2.2698-2.2736
Pakistan rupee	52.63 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7125-5.8085
Singapore dollar	2.1689-2.1718
S Africa rand (com)	5.5660-5.6680
U A E dirham	5.5925-5.7165

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,300	Land Secs	834
ASDA Gp	7,300	Legal & Gn	1,700
Abbey Ntl	4,400	Lloyds TSB	12,000
Allied Dom	2,100	Marks Spr	8,100
Argos	75	NatWst Bk	8,400
Argyll Gp	6,000	Nat Grid	5,400
AB Foods	487	Nat Power	11,000
BAA	10,000	P & O	2,900
BAT Inds	3,800	Pearson	2,500
BOC	1,500	Pilkington	4,600
BP	15,000	PowerGen	896
BSkyB	2,200	Prudential	4,400
BTR	5,900	REXAM	1,800
BT	7,400	RMC	379
Bk of Scot	3,900	RTZ	1,700
Barclays	4,100	Rank Org	2,900
Bass	1,000	Reckitt Col	1,700
Blue Circle	2,700	Redland	6,600
Boots	3,600	Reed Intl	1,700
BAe	4,900	Rentokil	24,000
BA	6,100	Reuters	3,300
Brit Gas	8,000	Rolls Royce	4,500
Brit Steel	12,000	Royal Ins	2,500
Burmah Cstl	1,100	Ryl Bk Scot	4,600
Burton	15,000	Sainsbury	2,900
Cable Wire	4,500	Schroders	341
Cadbury	7,000	Scot & New	1,900
Carlton Cms	2,300	Scot Power	3,200
Cm.Union	3,400	Svrn Trent	953
Cookson	4,400	Shell Trans	19,000
Courtaulds	358	Siebe	864
Dixons	3,500	SmKl Bch	1,700
Enterpr Oil	1,400	Smith Nph	3,500
For & Col IT	957	Smiths Inds	489
GKN	2,900	Sthern Elec	394
GRE	5,700	Std Chartd	2,000
GUS	3,700	Sun Allnce	2,300
Gen Acc	2,500	TI Gp	1,000
Gen Elec	12,000	Tate & Lyle	762
Glaxo Well	3,800	Tesco	4,300
Granada	4,300	Thames W	2,100
Grand Met	2,800	Thrn EMI	637
Greenalls	230	Tomkins	2,700
Guinness	2,400	Unilever	2,800
HSBC	2,900	United Utls	1,300
Hanson	14,000	Vodafone	7,700
ICI	2,300	Whitbread	1,100
Kingfisher	2,400	Wlms Hld	1,200
LASMO	9,200	Wolseley	1,700
Ladbroke	15,000	Zeneca	3,900

WALL STREET

	Feb 15 midday	Feb 14 close		Feb 15 midday	Feb 14 close		Feb 15 midday	Feb 14 close
AMP Inc	43¼	43¼	Eastman Kodak	77¼	77¼	Oracle	52¾	51¼
AMR Corp	83½	82¼	Eaton Corp	56¾	57¼	Oryx Energy Co	14½	13¾
AT & T	67	67½	Edison Intl	18	18	Owens Corning	44½	44¾
Abbott Labs	43¾	42¾	Emerson Elec	84¼	82¾	PHH Corp.	50¼	49
Advanced Micro	20¼	20¼	Engelhard Corp	22¾	22¾	PPG Industries	47¾	47¾
Aetna Life	73½	73¾	Enron Corp	39¾	38¾	PNC Bank	31	30¾
Ahmanson (HF)	23¾	23¾	Entergy	30¾	30	PP&L Res	25¼	25¾
Air Prod & Chem	53	52½	Ethyl Corp	11	11	Paccar Inc	52	52¾
AirTouch Comm	31½	31½	Exxon	83¾	82¾	Pacificorp	21	21¼
Alberto-Culver B	37¼	37¾	FMC Corp	74½	74¼	Pac Enterprises	28¼	28¾
Albertson's	36½	35¾	FPL Group	47¾	47½	Pac Gas & Elect	26¾	26¾
Alcan Aluminum	31¾	31½	Federal Express	76¼	75¾	Pac Telesis	30¾	31¾
Alco Standard	45¾	45½	Fed Nat Mtge	34½	34¼	Pall Corp	28¾	28¾
Allied Signal	54½	54¼	First Interstate	166¼	163¾	Panhandle East	29¾	29¾
Alum Co of Am	56½	56¼	First Union Rlty	7¼	7¼	Parker Hannifin	35¾	36¾
Amax Gold Inc	8¼	8½	Fleet Finl Grp	41¼	40¾	Peco Energy	31¾	31¾
Amerada Hess	54½	53½	Fluor Corp	64½	64¼	Penney (JC)	48¾	48¾
Amer Brands	46¼	45¾	Ford Motor	30¾	31	Pennzoil	39¾	39¾
Amer El Power	44	43¾	GTE Corp	47¾	48	Pepsico	62¾	62¾
Amer Express	47	46¾	Gannett	67¼	67¾	Pfizer	69¾	69¾
Amer Genl Corp	36¾	37½	Gap Inc Del	50¾	50¾	Pharm & Upjhn	43¾	43¾
Amer Home Pr	101¼	101	Gen Dynamics	61½	62	Phelps Dodge	63	63
Amer Intl	101¼	101	Gen Electric	78¾	78¾	Philip Morris	97¾	97¾
Amer Stores	29¼	29¾	Gen Mills	59	59¾	Phillips Pet	34¾	34¾
Amer Standard	29¾	29¾	Gen Motors	52	52¾	Pitney Bowes	49¾	49¾
Ameritech	62	62¾	Gen Reinsurance	149¾	148¾	Polaroid	43¾	43¾
Amoco	71½	71½	Gen Signal	35	35	PriceCostco	17¾	17¾
Anheuser-Busch	66½	68¼	Genuine Parts	44¾	45	Procter & Gmbl	85¾	85¾
Apple Computer	27¾	27½	Georgia Pac	67¾	68¾	Providian	46¾	46¾
Archer Daniels	19¼	19½	Gillette	56¼	55¾	Pub Serv E & G	31¾	31¾
Armco	5½	5¼	Glaxo Wellc ADR	29¼	28¾	Quaker Oats	33¾	34¾
Armstrong Wrld	60¼	60¾	Goodrich (BF)	74½	74¾	Ralston Purina	66¾	66¾
Asarco	30¾	30¾	Goodyear Tire	49¾	49¾	Raychem Corp	66¾	66¾
Ashland Oil	38¼	38¾	Grace (W&R)	68¾	68¾	Raytheon	51¾	51¾
Atl Richfield	115¾	116¼	Gt Atl Pac Tea	23¾	23¾	Reebok Intl	28¾	27¾
Auto Data Pro	40¾	41¾	Great Wstn Fin	23¾	23¾	Reynolds Metals	52¾	52½
Avery Dennison	57½	56¼	Halliburton	53¾	52¾	Rockwell Intl	61¾	62¾
Avon Products	84½	84½	Harcourt General	41½	40¾	Rohm & Haas	71¾	71
Baker Hughes	26¼	25¾	Heinz (HJ)	35¾	35¾	Royal Dutch	140¾	145¾
Baltim Gas & El	29¾	29¾	Hercules	58¾	57¾	Rubbermaid	28¾	28¾
Banc One	39¾	39¾	Hershey Foods	75½	74¾	SBC Comms	57¾	57¾
BankAmerica	70¼	70	Hewlett Packard	89	88¾	Safeco Corp	38¾	38¾
Bank of NY	53½	53¾	Hilton Hotels	94	89¾	St Paul's Cos	60¾	59¾
Bankers Tr NY	66¼	66¼	Home Depot	47¾	46¾	Salomon Inc	38¾	38¾
Barnett Banks	61½	61½	Homestake Mng	19¾	19¾	Sara Lee Corp	34¾	34¾
Bausch & Lomb	39¾	40	Honeywell	52¾	52	Schering Plough	58	58
Baxter Intl	43	43¾	Household Intl	66¾	67¾	Schlumberger	73¾	72¾
Becton Dicknsn	87	86¾	Houston Inds	22¾	23¾	Seagram	36¾	36¾
Bell Atlantic	71¾	72¾	Humana	25¾	27¾	Sears Roebuck	45¾	46¾
Bell Industries	21½	21¾	ITT Corp	57¾	58	Shell Trans	81¾	82¾
BellSouth	42¾	41½	Illinois Tool	63¾	63¾	Sherwin Wllms	44	43¾
Black & Decker	33½	34¼	Illinova	30	30¾	Skyline Corp	22¾	22¾
Block (H&R)	37½	37¼	INCO	32¾	31¾	Snap-On-Tools	44¾	44¾
Boeing	82½	83¼	Ingersoll Rand	41½	41½	Southern Co	25¾	25¾
Boise Cascade	38¼	38½	Inland Steel	27	27¾	Sprint Corp	44¾	44¾
Bristol Myrs Sq	88	87¾	Intel Corp	57½	58	Stanley Works	55¾	55¾
Browning Ferris	29¾	29¾	IBM	117¾	114¾	Sun Company	28¾	28¾
Brunswick	24¼	24¾	Intl Flav & Fr	50¾	50¾	Sun Microsys	48¾	47¾
Burlington Nthn	81½	82¾	Intl Paper	39	39	Suntrust	73¾	74¾
CBI Inds	32¼	32¾	James River Va	28	28	Supervalu	31¾	31¾
CNA Financial	115¾	115¾	Jhnsn & Jhnsn	96¾	97¾	Sysco Corp	32¾	32¾
CPC Intl	73¾	74½	Kellogg	79¾	79¾	TRW Inc	90¾	90
CSX	47	47¾	Kerr-McGee	63½	62¾	TCC Inds	2¾	2¾
Campbell Soup	65¾	65¾	Kimberly-Clark	79¾	79¾	Tandem Comp	10¾	10¾
Can Pacific	20	19¾	Kmart	7	7	Tandy Corp	43¾	43¾
Carolina Pwr	38½	38¾	Knight-Ridder	66¾	66¾	Teledyne	27¾	27¾
Caterpillar	67¾	67¾	Lilly (Eli)	64½	63¾	Temple Inland	43¾	43¾
Central & SW	27¾	27¾	Limited Inc	17¾	17¾	Tenneco	55¾	54¾
Champion Intl	43	43¾	Lincoln Nat	56	55¾	Texaco	81¾	81¾
Chase Manhat	70	69¾	Litton	48	48¾	Texas Inst	50¾	50¾
Chemical Bk	68	67¾	Liz Claiborne	32¾	31¾	Texas Utilities	41¾	41¾
Chevron Corp	56¾	55¾	Lockheed Martin	80¾	79¾	Textron	80¾	79¾
Chrysler	56¾	56	Louisiana Pac	24¾	25	Time Warner	44¾	44¾
Chubb Corp	102¾	102¾	MCI Comm	29¾	30	Times-Mirror A	35¾	35¾
Cigna Corp	120½	120	Marriott Intl	46¾	46¾	Timken	46¾	46¾
Citicorp	77½	76¾	Marsh & McLnn	95½	95	Torchmark	48	47¾
Clorox	86	85¾	Masco Corp	29	29¾	Toys R Us	22¾	22¾
Coastal Corp	38¾	38¾	May Dept St	46¾	46¾	Transamerica	77	76¾
Coca Cola	82¾	81	Maytag Corp	20¾	20¾	Travelers	67¾	67¾
Colgate-Palmolive	78¾	78	McDonalds	51½	50¾	Tribune	67¾	66¾
Columbia Gas	44¾	44¾	McDonnell D	92¾	91¾	Tyco Labs	37¾	37¾
ColumbiaHCA	55¾	57	McGraw-Hill	90	90	UST Inc	34¾	33¾
Compaq Comp	49¾	49¾	Mead Corp	55¾	55¾	UAL	177	175¾
Comp Ass Intl	72¾	71	Medtronic	59¾	59¾	US Inds	18¾	18¾
Conagra	48	46¾	Mellon Bk	55	54¾	USX Marathon	18¾	18¾
Conrail	73¾	73¾	Melville Corp	31½	30¾	Unicom	34¾	33¾
Cons Edison	33¾	33¾	Merck Inc	70¾	70¾	Unilever NV	142¾	142¾
Cons Nat Gas	46¾	46	Merrill Lynch	60¾	60¾	Union Camp	48¾	48¾
Cooper Inds	38¾	38¾	Microsoft	98¾	98¾	Union Carbide	44¾	44¾
Corestates	43¾	43¾	Minnesota Mine	68¾	68¾	Union Pacific	69¾	69¾
Corning Inc	34¾	34¾	Mobil Corp	115	114¾	Unisys Corp	7¾	7¾
Crown Cork	46¾	44¾	Monsanto	133¾	133¾	USAIR Group	17¾	17¾
Dana Corp	32¼	32¾	Morgan (JP)	82¾	82¾	USF&G Corp.	16¾	16¾
Dayton Hudson	76¾	76¾	Motorola Inc	59¾	59¾	US Life	32¾	32¾
Deere	39¾	39¾	Natl Semi	16¾	16¾	United Tech	105	105¾
Delta Air Lines	75¾	75¾	Natl Service Ind	34¾	34¾	Unocal Corp	30¾	30¾
Deluxe Corp	32¾	32¾	Navistar Intl	10¾	10¾	VF Corp	52¾	52¾
Digital Equip	69¾	70¾	NY Times A	28¾	28	WMX Tech	28¾	28¾
Dillard Dept St	32¾	32	Newmont Mng	56¾	57¾	Wal-Mart Stores	22¾	22¾
Disney (Walt)	64¾	64¾	Niag Mohawk	8¾	8¾	Warner-Lambert	102	98¾
Dominion Res	43¾	43¾	Nike B	68	67	Wells Fargo	253¾	248¾
Donnelley (RR)	37¾	37¾	NL Industries	14¾	14¾	Westinghouse El	18¾	18¾
Dover Corp	47¾	47¾	Norcen Energy	8¾	8¾	Weyerhaeuser	45	44¾
Dow Chemical	77¾	77¾	Nordstrom	42¾	42¾	Whirlpool	58	55¾
Dow Jones	39¾	39¾	Norfolk Sthrn	81¾	81¾	Whitman	24	24
Dresser	27	26¾	Nthn State Pwr	52¾	52¾	Winn Dixie	37¾	36¾
Duke Power	51½	51½	Norwest Corp	35¾	36¾	Woolworth	12¾	12¾
Dun & Bradstreet	64¾	65	Nynex Corp	53¾	53¾	Wrigley (Wm) Jr	61¾	61¾
Du Pont	80¾	79¾	Occidental Pet	23¾	24	Xerox	130¾	130¾
Eastman Chem	67¾	67¾	Ohio Edison	24¾	24¾	Yellow Corp	12¾	12

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

No frying tonight

IT SEEMS the British are not ready for upmarket fish and chips. While Harry Ramsden's Yorkshire emporium goes from strength to strength, a restaurant selling a rather posher version of the national dish — complete with Japanese sauces and sundried tomatoes — has closed after six months.

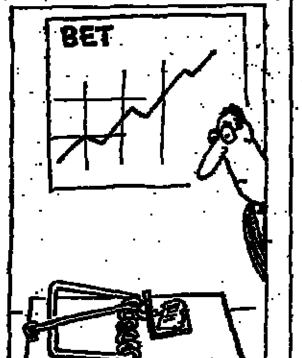
M Fish was based within sight of Tower Bridge and just round the corner from the World Trade Centre. Alas, despite hiring the respected chef Anton Mosimann as a consultant, *M Fish* suffered from cruel press reviews and poor evening trade. Those City types just don't seem to want fancy fast food . . .

A health matter

IF YOU bank at NatWest's Harley Street branch, I trust you are healthy and like a walk. After 74 years, NatWest is to close its branch at 154 Harley Street and transfer all business and client operations to 10 Marylebone High Street. NatWest says it's all to do with economies, and that the Marylebone branch is "no more than half a mile away".

Strike a light

GUESTS at Ronson's centenary party at Bibendum last night had their dreams come true. The James Dean lookalike leather-clad hunk, astride a Harley Davidson, whose picture had adorned the invitations that chief executive Howard Hodgson sent out to his bash, was there . . . in the flesh. The hunk was none other than Howard Hodgson Junior, 22, Ronson's international gift salesman 1995, who had lit up the cigarette dangling from his lips with one of daddy's lighters for the invitation photograph.



Farmyard facts

LIES, damned lies and porkies? January's inflation news may have been good, but the Central Statistical Office offered dark warnings yesterday that we are about to be caught in a vicious hog cycle. Bacon prices are rising sharply because the Japanese are buying Danish rashers. Animal husbandry may be unfamiliar ground to Jon McGinty, the CSO's retail prices expert, but he also solemnly explained that the hot summer weather had put sows off their boars, and there are very few piglets around this spring.

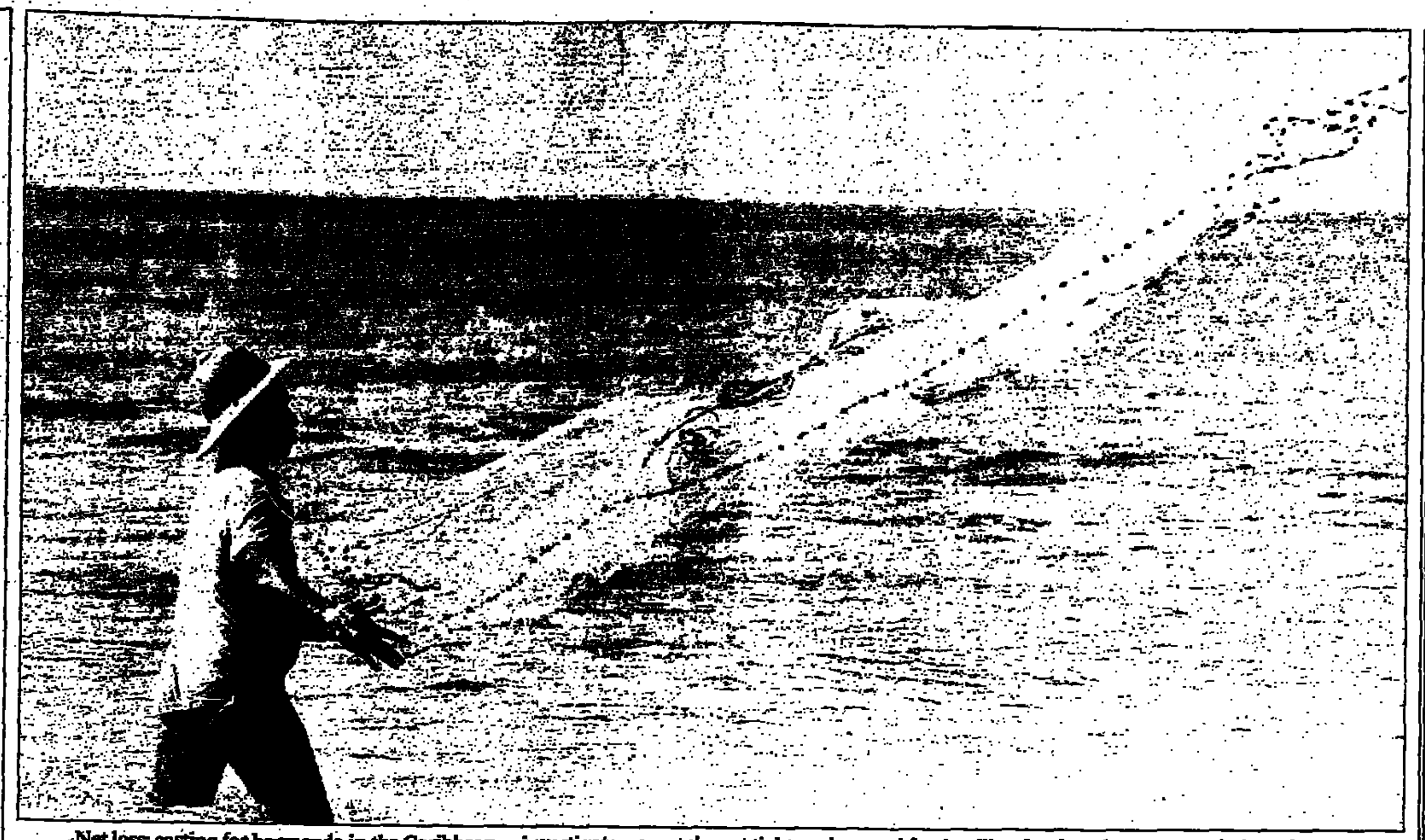
Shell in tune

THE fashion for New Age music with environmental themes has caught up with Shell, the oil company. As journalists entered Shell's press conference auditorium, yesterday, decked out in harsh 1960s red and yellow velour, they were greeted with the dreamy sound of Enya singing . . . *The Memory of Trees.*

Flying high

SBC WARBURG has appointed a replacement for Derek Higgs, the high-flying corporate financier who — after a brief holiday in Europe — jets off to join the Pru at the end of the month. Stephen Latner, a member of SBC Warburg's investment banking board, has been promoted to the post of UK country head.

COLIN CAMPBELL



Net loss: casting for barracuda in the Caribbean — investigators want the net tightened around foreign illegals who take sanctuary in island states

Lax laws of 'sunshine states' allow criminals a life of ease

Robert Miller reports on hindrances that blunt the fight against international crime

International fraudsters are enjoying the fruits of their crimes in some of the world's most pleasant sun-spots. They are doing so safe in the knowledge that, even though law-enforcement officers know who they are and what they have done, they are powerless to do anything about it.

This week, in an interview with *The Times*, senior officials from the Serious Fraud Office expressed their concern that efforts to prosecute criminals and choke off the proceeds of their ill-gotten gains are being hampered by many small island states, from the Caribbean to the Pacific.

The SFO and other international agencies such as the FBI, Interpol and the Financial Action Task Force, to which 26 Governments, including the United Kingdom, are signatories, believe that many island authorities are deliberately making it harder for investigators to gather evidence needed to secure a prosecution.

The example quoted most often is that of the Seychelles and its Economic Development Act (EDA), which has been dubbed a "money-launderers' charter". Investigators say that the Seychelles legislation, which has the personal backing and involvement of President Albert Rene, is hindering their efforts to cut off the flow of hundreds of billions of pounds from the proceeds of organised crime that circulates round the international money system every year.

Critics of the EDA claim that for a fee of $10 million, criminals, including UK citizens, will be given diplomatic status in the Seychelles and a guarantee that their assets will be protected if any foreign authority tries to seize or even trace them.

One way of squeezing money-laundering out of the system is for banks and other financial institutions in different countries to not only *know their client* but to know where the money comes from and how it was earned. In Britain, for example, any suspicious transactions must be reported to the authorities.

Law-enforcement officers believe that money being lodged in numerous small "friendly" island states around the world is not checked out, even though there is ample evidence to say that it is the proceeds of a criminal act, whether from drugs, bank robberies or other types of international fraud.

Chris Dickson and Patricia Howse, two of the SFO's most senior lawyers, believe that they are having to drop potential prosecutions because small island states are deliberately putting obstacles in their way. They say that in some cases a request for "mutual assistance" can take two years or more, and even then there is no guarantee that they will get beyond tracing the money to an "opaque" trust or bank account.

Rene: 'asset-protection'

To gain access to vital evidence many Commonwealth countries require that criminal proceedings have been commenced before consideration can be given to providing evidence. But without such evidence it is often impossible to mount a prosecution.

Result? "The crooks go free," says Mr Dickson.

One of the reasons that criminals have had to move their money to more exotic locations is the success that a series of treaties and conventions have had in driving money-laundering out of Europe. Even Switzerland, for example, is far less secretive than it was although securing evidence can still be very time-consuming and more laborious than it needs to be.

One possible new weapon that could be added to the SFO's armoury is a "Hearsay Act", which is being considered by the Law Commission. This would allow statements taken from witnesses overseas to become admissible evidence in a UK court.

What has hampered progress in forging closer ties with Caribbean islands is antiquated legislation. Also, it is not possible for Commonwealth Dependent Territories to sign new treaties on the grounds that the Queen is head of state in both cases, and she cannot make a co-operation treaty with herself. The same principle applies also in the Channel Islands.

Dianne Stafford, assistant director of the legal and constitutional affairs department of the Commonwealth Secretariat, believes that the next major issue to be addressed by many members is how developed countries can help the smaller, less developed economies to provide better co-operation in fighting money-laundering.

She says: "It is important that there is a more concerted effort to beat the money-launderers. But in many cases we are talking about governments struggling with how to build a viable economy that will sustain development. If these countries do not have natural resources they are almost certain to turn to areas such as the financial services industry. Most island states around the world have also been the victims of fraud."

Ms Stafford also points out that in many cases there is neither the personnel nor sufficient resources to tackle sophisticated money-launderers. She believes that if the fight against the fraudsters is to be more effective on the international stage then the developed countries will have to help the island states develop more robust regulatory systems.

There is no doubt that fraud agencies have developed much closer ties with each other. On that level co-operation and the exchange of useful information between police officers, lawyers and forensic accountants about criminal activities is far better than was the case say ten, or even five, years ago. But there is still a long way to go at government level in the different countries and further legislation is still needed to strengthen the hand of the fraudbusters.

While the fraudbusters are restricted in chasing criminals to other jurisdictions, the crooks simply pack their bags and jet off on the next plane to a suitably sunny and welcoming clime.

Without adequate powers, "it is a downward spiral of dirty money", Mr Dickson says.

Gatecrashers ready to spoil MAI's party

Eric Reguly says the Hollick-Stevens marriage could end before a honeymoon

The proposed £3 billion merger between MAI and United News & Media is anything but certain. The deal, according to senior investment bankers, is just waiting to be spoiled.

Said one: "Everyone in the media world is looking at how to break this thing up. I give the merger no better than a 50-50 chance of going ahead." Even Granada, which just acquired Forte in a £3.8 billion hostile takeover, is wondering whether the opportunity is too good to pass up.

MAI and United unveiled their surprise marriage last week. Their idea is to create a media conglomerate, with interests ranging from the Anglia and Meridian ITV franchises, held by MAI, to the *Daily Express* and *Sunday Express* under United's umbrella.

The trigger was the Broadcasting Bill, now making its way through Parliament, which will relax many of the restrictions on cross-media ownership, allowing the formation of media groups with enough bulk to compete with the likes of Walt Disney, which recently bought America's ABC-TV network, and Time Warner, which is negotiating to buy Ted Turner's US cable empire. But the merger was criticised as a defensive move.

> ‘Everyone in the media world is looking at how to break this thing up’

On their own, MAI and United were thought to be sitting ducks. United was approached late last year by several investment groups keen to buy its struggling Express titles; MAI was simply considered undervalued.

A closer examination of the deal calls the whole "synergy" argument promoted by Lords Hollick and Stevens, chiefs of MAI and United respectively, into question. While there may be some benefit in having ITV companies and newspapers under one roof, the gains from adding exhibitions and money-broking business to the mix are unclear. Yet newspapers and TV would account for only 44 per cent of the combined group's annual revenues of £1.9 billion.

The merger appears to have no immediate benefit to investors in either company. Since it is being completed though a share swap, shareholders receive no cash and are being offered no premium. Why, then, should they resist a counter-bid?

Who might ride to the rescue of these shareholders? Carlton Communications, led by Michael Green, remains the top candidate. He broke short a Caribbean holiday last week to consider launching a bid for either. Under Takeover Panel rules, Mr Green has 60 days from Tuesday this week, when MAI and United posted their merger document, to make up his mind.

The obstacles to buying MAI, however, are considerable. Carlton and MAI together would control slightly less than 15 per cent of the TV viewing audience — the limit to be imposed by the Broadcasting Bill — but would run into trouble with the Office of Fair Trading over their much higher percentage of ITV advertising. Carlton gave the OFT an undertaking in 1994 that it would control no more than 25 per cent of the advertising market. An identical undertaking was given by Granada. Carlton might be able to find a way to "ring fence" MAI's TV companies so it is deemed not to have control over their adverstising income. Alternatively, it might be able to set up a separate company, one that would have to be more than half owned by a non-media company, to bid for MAI.

If those options failed to clear the regulatory minefield, Carlton could bid for United instead. Industry insiders think Mr Green would welcome the opportunity to reverse the declining fortunes of the Express papers.

The risks are high, but Carlton is under pressure to make a big move. Granada stole the limelight when it bought Forte in January; MAI did the same with its proposed merger with United and the subsequent announcement that it is to build a £225 million film-inspired theme park in west London in partnership with Warner Bros. The TV industry is consolidating quickly and Mr Green has to decide whether he can afford to sit on the sidelines.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Let private sector coal industry compete on even terms

From R. J. Budge

Sir, The Government's decision not to opt for a gas levy to bail out an ailing British Gas has to be good news for the coal mining industry. We have been arguing that such a levy would not have corrected the basic flaw in the gas market.

The gas industry has still to find a solution to the fundamental problem to meet gas contracted under long-term take-or-pay contracts. This contractual stranglehold restricts the option for competition in gas supplies and has knock-on implications for coal. Rather than a gas levy, or renegotiation of contract prices as suggested by others, we believe that the best solution would be scaling back of the take-or-pay obligations in these anti-competitive contracts. The problem is one of volume — not of price. Under our proposals, customers would be able to benefit from any cheap gas available since they would have the headroom to buy it, and British Gas and others would not have to dump gas by selling at prices well below their purchase costs.

Scaling back of gas contract volumes would also encourage coal-on-gas competition in the electricity market. The "dash for gas" power stations that were ordered between 1990 and 1994 will produce electricity at a higher cost than existing coal-fired stations can achieve on competitive and sustainable UK coal. We estimate that the cost of producing electricity from these gas stations is 50 per cent higher than the electricity from existing coal-fired stations. However, the take or pay contracts force the gas stations to run in preference to their cheaper coal competitors.

In recent days we have seen that gas supplies to many of these stations have been interrupted by British Gas, just at the time when the power was most needed. Coal plants are required to hold minimum fuel stocks; so why aren't gas stations? The value of flexible, reliable and economic coal plant that has helped keep the lights on should not be understated.

All we seek is that the private sector coal industry be given the opportunity to compete on a fair and level playing field so that Britain's 22 million electricity users can share in the benefits of a competitive and reliable source of energy that will be available for generations to come.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. BUDGE,
President,
The Confederation of United Kingdom Coal Producers,
Confederation House,
Thornes Office Park,
Denby Dale Road,
Wakefield,
West Yorkshire.

It's not a laugh

From Mr A. J. Dorman

Sir, Most of the pictures I have seen of Mr Gerry Robinson during the battle for Forte have shown him laughing heartily.

Surely the breaking up of a business carefully built up since 1935 is no laughing matter.

I hope that Sir Rocco and his colleagues will be able to buy back the hotels they want. The only trouble is, this will make the huge fees, payable by both sides to their advisers, look even more ridiculous.

I wonder what Ms Galley would have to say about that!

Yours faithfully,
A. J. DORMAN,
38 Kew Green,
Richmond,
Surrey.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

Cold comfort

From J. P. Read

Sir, Following Mr Anatole Kaletsky's article ("Seismic shift over growth", January 30), I wonder how many people will be comforted by the thought that the extent to which they have been financially ruined by holding cash and bonds over the long term is because having a weak currency is a positive virtue?

Similarly, how many who have had the advantage of their funds in a strong currency or bonds will consider that their continued financial strength is an economic evil that governments must do their utmost to fight?

It is as well to remember that the ability of a government to maintain the probity of its currency depends on its ability to honour its word. This clearly requires an understandiing of economic fundamentals and the willingness and ability to put those into practice in its government of the country.

Unless the laws of a country are soundly based and its finances soundly managed its economy will inevitably be damaged, land and/or labour not being properly employed, and the people suffering the consequences.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. READ,
5 Turner Drive, NW11.

A question of consolation over Lloyd's building

From Mr Huw Griffith

Sir, As a long-suffering — and now non-underwriting — member of Lloyd's of London, I have long consoled myself in the midst of my disasters with the thought that whatever my personal financial problems I at least retained the social cachet of being the owner of however infinitesimal a part of what is, without any possibility of a peradventure, the most hideous building in the history of the world.

I read today (Business News, February 5) that it has been sold — for less than it cost, naturally, for what else would one expect from the collective genius that has inspired Lloyd's over the last 20 years.

What is left of consolation now?

Yours faithfully,
HUW GRIFFITH,
Foys,
Popham,
Winchester,
Hampshire.

MMC referral?

From R. I. Simpson

Sir, In view of the undue influence exerted by Mercury Asset Management (MAM) on the Granada bid for Forte, and also on previous successful bids, should not the takeover be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), or the OFT?

Yours faithfully,
R. I. SIMPSON,
Chartfield,
Park View Road,
Woldingham,
Surrey.

THE GREAT SHAREHOLDER GIVEAWAY

Buy a new home at a discount; furnish it and install a new kitchen with money-off to shareholders. And to celebrate moving in, toast the new home with champagne bought at a special rate.

Or how about buying a car with a shareholders' offer? The maintenance comes with money off, too – for new tyres, even for cleaning it.

Offers such as these – plus lots more – are available to the shareholders of the UK's quoted companies. And in this week's issue of Investors Chronicle, we look at everything that's available.

With values ranging from a few pounds to thousands, shareholder perks are well worth knowing about. We'll tell you which companies offer the best deals, what rewards can be had for even a tiny investment, and – most important nowadays – whether the perks are available to nominee shareholders.

It's the comprehensive list of which quoted companies give perks. Don't miss it.

Investors Chronicle complete with details of Shareholders' Perks is on sale Friday, 16 February. Price £2.00.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grolund Fran	207 50	219 60	- 2 50	0 19
Grolund Equity	277 40	295 10	+ 1 00	1 86
Grolund Euro	252 60	269 40	- 1 00	0 71
Grolund Expl Bd	133 00	134 70		4 49
Grolund Gilt	78 70	79 07	- 0 14	5 06
Grolund Japan	180 90	191 40	+ 0 80	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	638 90	679 70	+ 4 40	2 47
General Inc	543 90	584 00	+ 3 80	2 47
UK Growth Acc	435 10	460 80	- 2 00	2 66
UK Growth Inc	288 50	307 00	- 1 90	2 66
Higher Inc Acc	786 50	836 80	- 2 90	4 00
Higher Inc Inc	437 60	465 60	+ 1 60	4 00
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	205 60	219 30	- 0 10	5 45
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	95 06	100 40		5 45
Nth American	356 30	379 10	+ 0 40	
Europe	331 40	352 60	- 0 30	0 59
Bril Exsuit	86 15	91 65	- 0 43	2 75
Bril Fxdinds Acc	114 30	121 70	+ 0 10	4 53
Bril Fxdinds Inc	80 12	85 21	+ 0 12	4 53
Global Opps	99 82	106 20	+ 0 50	0 15
Balanced Acc	62 42	66 41	+ 0 28	2 64
Balanced Inc	59 73	63 55	+ 0 25	2 64
Japan Acc	47 97	51 04	+ 0 38	
Pac Basin Acc	427 60	454 90	+ 4 30	0 60
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	131 20	139 10	- 0 40	7 19
High Inc Equity	180 10	192 60†	+ 0 30	4 37
Worldwide Bond	284 50	303 90†	- 0 20	4 58
American Growth	354 60	379 30†	- 0 10	0 57
Asian Pacific	349 80	374 10	+ 3 70	0 11
Assets & Earnings	296 80	315 70	- 1 00	2 71
Euro Capital Acc	166 60	178 10	- 0 50	0 59
Extra Inc	44 56	47 40†	- 0 01	6 48
General	270 80	288 10†	+ 1 40	2 89
Global Opps	63 63	67 69	- 0 10	0 44
Japan	128 40	137 30	- 0 60	
Managed Inc	38 10	31 17†	+ 0 03	4 54
Mastertrust	162 90	173 60	+ 0 30	1 41
UK Emerging Cos	183 90	195 60	- 0 60	
Ethical	77 50	82 45	- 0 69	2 46
International	135 00	143 60	+ 0 40	0 71
Dividend & Growth	67 04	71 32†	- 0 11	4 20
Global Gwth & Sec	71 62	76 11	+ 0 02	2 45
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2073 00	2156.00	+ 19.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	58.92	61 19	- 0 04	0 50
Cash	50 53	50 53	+ 0.01	5 79
Emerging Mkts	73 13	77.50	- 0 03	0 04
European	134 80	140.20†	+ 0 10	
Exempt	1013 10	1080 80†	+ 1 20	1 72
Extra Income #	48 43	51 84	+ 0 06	6 56
Far East Emg Eco	134 10	140 80	+ 0 60	0 44
Fixed Interest #	23 78	24 73†	- 0 03	9 50
Fixed Inc Fd	160 60	168 60†	- 0 30	9 25
Japan	168 90	196 40	+ 0 70	
Latin American	55 84	58 46	- 0 15	0 83
Pacific	87 97	92 37	+ 0 29	0 28
Property Share	63 38	66 52†	+ 0 18	2 64
UK Emerging Cos	69 16	74 16†	- 0 05	1 67
UK Growth	51 13	54 06	+ 0 22	2 17
Amer World Perf #	81 76	83 22	+ 0 24	1 97
Ethical	76 06	79 10	- 0 20	2 35
Aberdeen Cal Inc #	51 05	51 05	- 0 05	7 35
For AEGON see Matheson				
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5868				
Reside Property	94 18	101 10†		5 10
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	86 02	91 27	+ 0 25	2 22
Income Builder Inc	77 32	82 79	+ 0 34	2 77

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	97 73	104 26†	+ 0 22	2 47
American Portfolio	119 03	126 39	- 0 46	0 89
European Portfolio	118.41	126 02	+ 0 15	0 46
High Income	51 17	51 28†	- 0 22	7.75
Japanese Portfolio	70 01	74 42†	- 0 02	
Pacific Portfolio	167 51	174 75	+ 1 30	1 38
UK Inc & Growth	92 84	98 99	+ 0 43	2 88
Utility & Bond	58 22	58 90	+ 0 07	6 49
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	741 71	752 91		4 28
Fxd Int Sec	157 82	158 46		9 02
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	708 72	744 80		4 35
Investment Acc	1382 72	1393 21		
Fixed Int Inc	127 38	127 90		8 99
Fixed Int Acc	216 71	217 57		
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	93.85	98.96		3
Beck Bio Tech	51 01	54 03	- 0 50	
Acorn Ethical Tst	168 29	176.72		0.61
City Fin Assets	77 48	81 36		2 05
City Fin America	115 25	121 02		
City Fin Intl	93.61	98 30		0 82
City Fin Japan	153 30	160 98†		
Friars Hse Cap	300 22	325 26†		2 34
Friars Hse Inc	199 76	212 51		4 18
Buckley Wrld Gth	144 84	158 35		
Fairmont Cap Gth	150 27	158 18	+ 0 20	
Fairmont Intl	161 76	170 27	- 0 18	
J Ord Inc/Gth Inc	57 21	60 08	+ 0 26	1 56
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	60 12	63 79†	+ 0 15	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	77 22	82 15	- 0 29	
Dragon Growth	75 93	81 20	- 0 72	0 37
Equity High Inc	90 94	96 74	+ 0 50	3 93
-do- Accum	127 12	135 23	+ 0 71	3 93
Extra Income Inc	26 42	27 82	- 0 11	7 31
Extra Income Acc	27 82	29 30	- 0 11	7 31
European Gwth	59 75	63 40	- 0 04	0.94
Evergreen	29 87	31 94	+ 0 08	
General Equity	98.46	104 47	+ 0 59	2 82
Japan Growth	52 44	55 79	+ 0 23	
Pedigree Gwth	59.46	63 26	+ 0 27	2 53
Pers Sm Cos Inc	34 89	37 12	+ 0 12	1 50
-do- Accum	36 74	39 08	+ 0 12	1 50
Retirement Inc #	28 16	29 96	+ 0 16	5 69
Special Sits	44 76	47 62	+ 0 20	1 96
UK & Overseas	57 72	61 24	+ 0 17	0 74
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	66.74	69 43	+ 0 21	4 05
Capital	78 97	82 15	+ 0 46	1 85
High Income	50 81	52 86	- 0 22	
Top 50	53 68	55 84	+ 0 48	
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	180.76	192.30	+ 0 91	4 55
Fixed & Convertible	41 10	43.72†	- 0 07	6 74
Monthly Inc Plus	49 38	52 53	- 0 15	8 53
Preference Share	45.57	48 48†	- 1 46	7 84
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	133 81	142 35†	+ 0 31	5.71
Managed Fund	76 03	80.88	+ 0.23	2.91
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	46.07	49 01	+ 0 24	1 66
-do- Accum	53.62	57 04	+ 0 27	1 66
UK & General	92 03	97 90	+ 0 74	2 61
-do- Accum	118 11	125.65	+ 0 95	2 61
UK Growth	174 68	185 83	+ 1 25	2.18
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	205 96	219 10	+ 0 07	0.11
Far Eastern Gth	144 14	153 34	+ 1 11	
Global Bond	84 94	90 27	+ 0 07	5.86
Japan Growth	119 67	127 31	+ 0 60	
North Amer Gth	228 84	243 45	- 0 38	
Oriental Growth	89 12	94.81	+ 0 97	0 06

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
Enq 0171 330 6500 Dealing 0345 775511				
American Growth	75.93	80.94	...	..
-do- Accum	75.93	80 94		
Amer Smllr Cos	627 10	670.70	- 0 70	
-do- Accum	640.60	685 10	- 0.90	
Capital Tst	357 70	380 50	+ 1 10	1.21
-do- Accum	519.50	552 70	+ 1 70	1 21
Conti Smllr Cos	61 17	65.56	+ 0 21	0.89
-do- Accum	64 55	69 18	+ 0 22	0 89
Convertible	137 00	145 70†	- 0 30	5.10
-do- Accum	290 60	309.20†	+ 0 50	5 10
Emerging Markets	70.46	75.20	+ 0.21	..
-do- Accum	70 70	75.53	+ 0.20	
European	132.80	140 80		0.43
-do- Accum	139 70	148 00		0.43
Extra Income	372.40	396.20†	+ 2.30	3.64
-do- Accum	579.80	616.80†	+ 3.60	3.64
Financial	155.50	165 40	+ 0.40	0.63
-do- Accum	164 70	175.20	+ 0 50	0.63
Gilt Trust	85 14	87 16		5.95
-do- Accum	96.92	98 91	+ 0.01	5.95
Health Fund Inc	265.80	284 00	+ 1 00	.
-do- Accum	265.80	284.00	+ 1 00	
Income & Growth	219.40	233 40	+ 1 00	3.09
-do- Accum	342.90	364 80	+ 1 90	3.09
Intl Growth	424.00	451 80	+ 0.70	
-do- Accum	470 80	501 60	+ 0.70	.
Japan & Gen	184 50	196.30	+ 0 60	
-do- Accum	186 30	198 30	+ 0.60	
Monthly Inc #	184 30	196 10†	- 1.30	3.56
Managed Port Inc	117 90	124 10	+ 0.50	1.73
-do- Accum	126.50	133 20	+ 0.50	1.73
Quarterly Income #	54 63	58 67†	+ 0.25	4.29
-do- Accum #	61 12	65.64†	+ 0.29	4.29
Recovery	357 80	382.70†	+ 2.30	0.85
-do- Accum	422 40	451.80†	+ 2.70	0.85
UK Growth	62.27	66 24	+ 0.40	2.12
-do- Accum	65.99	70.20	+ 0.42	2.12
FRIENDS PROVIDENT UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealing 01705 881330 Enq 01705 881340				
FP American	58 80	62.56	- 0.23	0.52
FP Am Smlr Cos	185 40	198.20		
FP Asian Growth	300.70	321.60		
FP Australian	395.40	424.20	- 1.00	
FP Equity Dist	432.20	459 70	+ 1.50	2.45
-do- Accum	937.00	996.80	+ 3.20	2.45
FP Euro Gth	254 10	270.30	- 1 00	0.15
-do- Accum	276.20	293.80	- 1.10	0.15
FP Intl Bond	60 52	64.84	- 0.02	4.87
FP Intl Gth Dist	37 79	40 33	- 0.01	0.39
-do- Accum	55.17	58.87	- 0.02	0.39
FP Pac Basin Acc	230.10	245.90	+ 1.30	
FP Income #	57 54	61.37	+ 0.23	4.90
-do- Accum #	193.70	206.60		4.86
FP Jap Smlr Cos	309.30	330.50		
FP Monthly Dist #	74.52	79.53	+ 0.13	5.25
FP 50g Deposit	100.60	100.60†		5.759
FP Tokyo	84.95	90.61	.	
FP UK Focus	40.40	43.44		2.59
FP UK Growth	189.40	202.00†		2.59
-do- Accum	375.90	400.90		2.59
Stewardship Dist	388.90	413.70	+ 1.60	1.79
-do- Accum	484.10	515.00	+ 2.10	1.79
Stwdshp Inc Dist #	76.98	81.89†	- 0.10	4.84
-do- Accum #	103.30	109.80†	- 0.10	4.84
N Am Stshp Dist	119.90	127.50	- 0.40	0.81
-do- Accum	128.50	136.70	- 0.40	0.81
FP Managed Portfolio Service				
Capital Gwth Acc	122.80	130.60		1.06
Open Cap Gth Acc	127.70	135.80†		0.06
Cap Gth Inc Inc #	116.00	123.30	+ 0.20	2.29
Cap Gth Inc Acc #	121.20	128.90	+ 0.20	2.38
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ic #	118.40	125.90		3.34
Opn Cp Gth Ic Ac #	124.70	132.60		3.34
GA UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0345 581 106/7				
GANDA	273.10	288.80	+ 1.00	2.13
Cash	49.35	50.09†	+ 0.01	5.31
Growth Portfolio	87.41	92.65	- 0.02	0.89
Income Portfolio	69.98	74.01†	- 0.16	4.16
GEM DOLPHIN INV MGRS LTD				
0171 236 6441				
Special Sits	226.90	242.70	- 0.30	1.11
Dividend	93.60	100.10†		4.06
Intl Gth & Inc	239.10	256.70†	- 0.20	3.87
UK & Gen	48.82	52.21	- 0.06	1.96
Fund of Funds	73.43	78.53		

[illegible]

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc	101.80	107.30	+ 0.20	4.02
Sector Value Gwth	101.80	107.30	+ 0.20	2.21
Hy 5 Europe	97.94	102.60	- 0.10	2.44
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	213.10	226.80	- 0.20	
Income #	196.90	209.48†	+ 0.58	4.08
UK Growth	76.13	81.00†	+ 0.13	2.11
International	84.80	90.20†	+ 0.66	0.47
Ecology	98.10	104.36	+ 0.35	1.03
European	158.91	168.83	+ 0.38	
Far Eastern	319.50	339.80	+ 2.30	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits Growth	25.13	26.73	+ 0.15	2.07
UK Growth	430.84	458.34	+ 1.99	2.61
-do- Accum	577.47	614.32	+ 2.66	2.61
M&W JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1465.70	1487.80		2.90
Income #	1022.80	1040.10		4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	161.10	166.48		3.66
For Manulife see Canada Life				

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PORTFOLIO

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	100.40	103.70	- 0.30	7.42
Gilt Yield	119.20	125.30	- 0.20	6.76
Global Income	232.20	247.00†	- 0.30	3.51
High Yield	150.30	159.90†	+ 1.00	5.61
-do- Accum	478.30	508.80†	+ 2.30	5.61
Smllr Cos Div	52.36	51.02†	- 0.13	3.40
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	140.50	149.50	- 0.70	
Asian Growth	367.50	396.00	- 3.70	0.21
-do- Accum	429.30	453.50	- 4.20	0.21
North American	104.50	111.20	- 0.20	0.24
European Special	122.70	130.50	- 0.60	0.10
European	170.30	181.55		0.45
-do- Accum	275.30	279.70		0.45

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 066				
M & S Inv Pfolio	172.30	181.40†	+ 0.60	2.17
-do- Accum	202.20	212.90†	+ 0.70	2.17
UK Sel Pfolio	151.20	159.20	+ 1.10	2.40
-do- Accum	179.70	189.20	+ 1.30	2.40
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	74.87	79.67	+ 0.11	1.56
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4645				
Intl Income	52.07	87.12	- 0.01	3.75
European	97.17	103.20†		0.90
Income #	81.43	86.44†	+ 0.12	4.78
Nth American	89.83	95.15	- 0.09	0.39

[illegible]

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
0171 623 2444				
Challenger	101.60	104.60	- 0.30	2.90
Short Dtd Gilt	122.10	123.70	- 0.10	
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7773	0.7876		
Gilt Income	52.30	54.42	- 0.14	5.70
Gilt Growth	78.19	79.29	- 0.38	
Sterling Bond	49.62	51.47	- 0.15	7.30
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0181 298 4000				
Intl Mgd	54.67	58.08		1.44
UK Stockmarket	94.01	100.00		2.29
Corporate Bond	48.28	49.73		6.05

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return) † Ex dividend. ‡ Middle price. . . No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge.

هكذا من الأصل

Shares close at best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq†	525	+ 5	5.6	18.0
558	390	Bulmer (HP)	554		2.8	17.4
145	99	Burn Stewart	120		5.2	25.8
467	352	Grand Metr	456	+ 8	4.1	19.6
536	404	Guinness	458½	+ 3	3.9	14.2
445	315	Highland Distl	335		2.8	16.2
217	157	Macallan-Glen	160		1.0	35.5
718	600	Macdn Mrtn 'A'	643		2.1	18.1
694	532	Matthew Clark	674	+ 9	4.1	
140	61	Merrydown W	107		2.3	
2612½	1287½	SA Breweries	2543¾	+ 80½	1.4	34.1†

BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3050¾	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2861¼	- 3¼	4.4	10.9
663	413	Abbey Natl	613	+ 22	3.9	12.3
385	250	Allied Irish	382		4.1	
398	186	Aus New Z	333		4.9	
4643¾	2531¼	Bank America	4537½	- 75		
316	191½	Bank Scotland	284½	+ ½	2.7	12.6
812½	557½	Barclays	808	+ 16	3.5	11.0
488	288	Bk of Ireland	451	+ 1	3.8	9.8
525	418	Cater Allen	477		7.9	7.9
4975	2450	Citicorp	4862½	- 12½		
370	216½	Close Bros	361	+ 5	3.8	16.0
£162½	£127½	Commerzbk	£151¾	- 1¼	3.5	
1375	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1268¾	+ 12½	0.4	
3321¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3271½	- 25	2.2	
881¼	568¼	Espirito Santo	746¼	+ 16¼	4.8	10.0
1611	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1472	+ 14½	0.4	
490	395	Gerrard Nat	431	- 5	6.5	13.9
263	180	Hambros	205	+ 2	4.6	
1725	589	HSBC	1103	+ 21	3.2	14.4
1089	578	HSBC HK	1082	+ 21	3.3	14.1
421	228	Irish Perm	413		2.9	9.5
463	353	Joseph (L)	450		5.2	15.5
165	85	King Shaxson	159		7.1	12.4
350	308	Lloyds TSB	347½	+ 12½		
640	470	Natl Aust Bk	631	- 1	8.5	8.6
697	454	Nat West	676	+ 15	4.2	10.5
67	44	Rea Brothers	60		2.1	24.0
639½	373½	Royal Bk Scot	567	+ 14	3.6	12.8
1478	906¾	Schroders	1263	+ 8	1.4	18.0
1180	823¾	Schroders N/V	1013	+ 5	1.7	14.4
112	81	Singer & Fried	112	+ 3	4.1	11.6
662½	246	Stand Chart	604	+ 2	1.9	15.2
121	70	Union	100		3.8	
£169	£98¾	Wells Fargo	£161⅞	- 388¾	1.9	
317½	211	Westpac	314½	- ¼	4.4	
305	200	Wintrust	305		4.9	17.2

LEISURE & HOTELS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
625	533	Boosey Hawkes	623		1.2	34.2
3½	1¼	Brent Walker	1½			
46	31	Burndene	32			
228	127	Capital Corpn	225		7.5	12.9
115	37	CentreScreen#	37		4.5	21.9
288	201	Eurocamp	210		5.4	
250	118	Euro Disney	170		6.8	
183	93	Euro Leisure	176	- 1		5.3
20½	3½	Farringford	15½			
118½	56	First Choice†	64		7.1	
383	262	First Leisure	369	+ 1	2.7	
406	224½	Forte†	350	+ 2	3.0	24.1
175	133	Friendly Hotels	149		4.8	17.4

Which holiday in the sun has the highest interest rate?

SWAN HELLENIC

A P&O Company 0171 800 2200

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
123	79½	Aberdeen Trst	117		2.7	22.0
101	75	BWT	82	- 1	6.4	13.4
78	36	Berry Bch Inv	36		9.0	10.2
295	248	Bullet Inv	290	+ 7		
159	112	Brewin Dolphin	153		4.8	15.9

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
109½	101⅝	Treas 15¼% 1996	101⅝		14.96	6.36
107¾	101¾	Exch 13¼% 1996	101¾		13.02	6.22
104⅝	103	Conv 10% 1996	103		9.71	5.91
101⅝	97⅝	Treas 7% 1997	101⅛		6.91	6.01
109⅝	106⅝	Treas 13¼% 1997	108⅝		12.43	6.91
105⅝	100⅝	Exch 10½% 1997	104⅝xd		10.05	5.81
104⅝	100⅝	Treas 8¾% 1997	103⅝		8.42	6.04
117⅝	114⅝	Exch 15% 1997	114⅝		13.15	6.14
107⅝	102⅝	Exch 9¾% 1998	106⅝		9.17	6.20
102⅝	98⅝	Treas 7¼% 1998	101⅝		7.12	6.27
100⅝	94⅝	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100⅝		8.74	6.62
117⅝	114⅝	Treas 14% 1998-01	115⅝		12.08	6.39
124⅝	120⅝	Treas 15½% 1998	121⅝	- ⅛	12.77	6.45
114⅝	109⅝	Exch 12% 1998	113⅝		10.57	6.53
109⅝	100⅝	Treas 9½% 1999	107⅝		8.83	6.59
118⅝	114⅝	Exch 12¼% 1999	115⅝		10.61	6.67
112⅝	105⅝	Treas 10½% 1999	111	+ ⅛	9.46	6.68
98⅝	89⅝	Treas 6% 1999	97⅝	+ ⅛	6.13	6.70
112⅝	105⅝	Conv 10¼% 1999	111⅝	+ ⅛	9.21	6.81

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
108⅝	100⅝	Conv 9% 2000	107⅝		8.39	6.89
107⅝	99⅝	Treas 8% 2000	104⅝	+ ⅛	7.67	6.92
124⅝	117	Treas 13% 2000	122⅝	+ ⅛	10.61	6.97
114	104⅝	Treas 10% 2001	112⅝ †	+ ⅛	8.91	7.13
101⅝	90⅝	Treas 7% 2001	99⅝	+ ⅛	7.04	7.13
114⅝	103⅝	Treas 9¾% 2002	112⅝		8.69	7.32
105⅝	94⅝	Treas 8% 2003	103⅝		7.74	7.38
117⅝	105⅝	Treas 10% 2003	114⅝	- ⅛	8.73	7.43
119⅝	110⅝	Treas 11½% 2001-04	117⅝	+ ⅛	9.75	7.22
85⅝	78⅝	Fund 3½% 1999-04	81⅝	+ ⅛	4.28	6.35
114⅝	103⅝	Conv 9½% 2004	111⅝	- ⅛	8.51	7.62
95⅝	86⅝	Treas 6¾% 2004	94⅝	- ⅛	7.14	7.61
109⅝	97⅝	Treas 8½% 2005	105⅝		8.04	7.64
114⅝	103⅝	Conv 9½% 2005	111⅝	- ⅛	8.50	7.67
131¼	113⅝	Treas 12½% 2003-05	128⅝		9.73	7.55
101⅝	94⅝	Treas 7½% 2006	99⅝	- ⅛	7.60	7.67
103¼	92⅝	Treas 7¾% 2006	100⅝	- ⅛	7.74	7.73
104⅝	95⅝	Treas 8% 2002-06	101⅝	- ⅛	7.89	7.78
135⅝	113⅝	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	122⅝	+ ⅛	9.58	7.43
107⅝	97⅝	Treas 8½% 2007	105⅝	- ⅛	8.07	7.77
138⅝	126⅝	Treas 13½% 2004-08	135⅝		9.98	7.58
112⅝	101⅝	Treas 9% 2008	109⅝	- ⅛	8.24	7.82
105⅝	94	Treas 8% 2009	100⅝	- ⅛	7.93	7.98

LONGS (over 15 years)

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
89⅝	79⅝	Treas 6¼% 2010	85⅝	- ⅛	7.34	7.97
112⅝	101⅝	Conv 9% 2011	108⅝	- ⅛	8.27	7.98
113⅝	102⅝	Treas 9% 2012	109⅝	- ⅛	8.25	7.99
87⅝	72⅝	Treas 5½% 2008-12	79⅝	+ ⅛	6.90	7.72
103⅝	93⅝	Treas 8% 2013	99⅝	- ⅛	8.07	8.00
101⅝	91⅝	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	97⅝	- ⅛	7.94	8.01
104⅝	93⅝	Treas 8% 2015	99⅝	- ⅛	8.01	8.03
111⅝	100⅝	Treas 8¾% 2017	106⅝xd	- ⅛	8.18	8.06
141⅝	127⅝	Exch 12% 2013-17	136⅝	- ⅛	8.81	8.11

UNDATED

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
43⅝	40⅝	War Ln 3½%	42⅝	- ⅛	8.09	
32⅝	29⅝	Treas 2½%	30⅝	+ ⅛	8.13	
50⅝	45⅝	Consols 4%	48⅝	- ⅛	8.25	

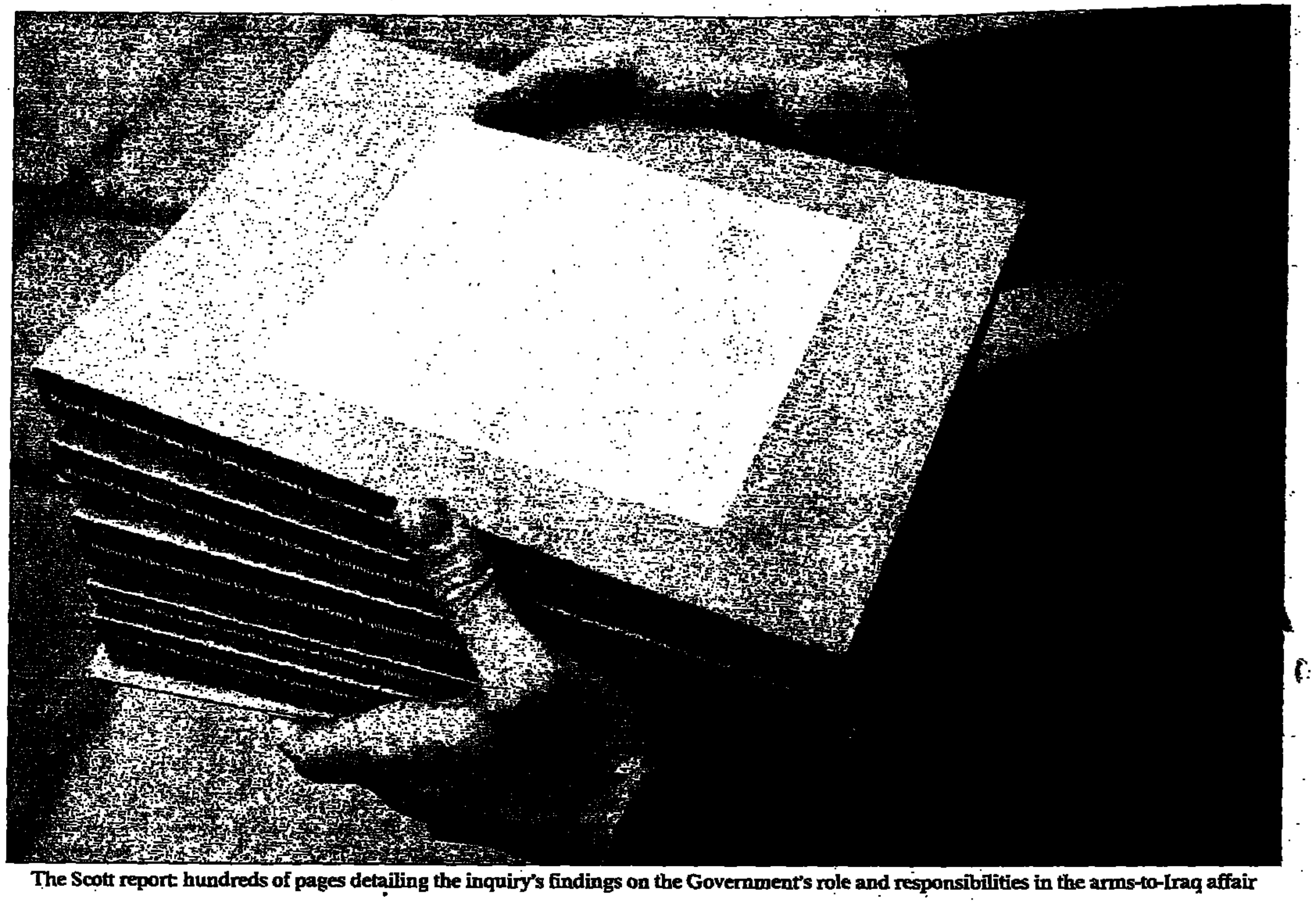
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	10%	5%
216⅝	201⅝	Treas IL 2% 1996	216⅝	+ ⅛		2.18
113⅝	108⅝	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	112⅝		1.54	2.71
180⅝	165⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2001	178⅝	- ⅛	3.01	3.48
176⅝	161⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2003	174⅝	- ⅛	3.19	3.55
116⅝	108⅝	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	115⅝	- ⅛	3.21	3.54
185⅝	169⅝	Treas IL 2% 2006	182⅝	- ⅛	3.31	3.57
167⅝	152⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2009	164⅝	- ⅛	3.40	3.62
173⅝	157⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2011	170⅝ †	- ⅛	3.45	3.64
143	129⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2013	139⅝xd	- ⅛	3.51	3.68
152⅝	137⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2016	149	- ⅛	3.54	3.70
138⅝	131⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2020	140⅝	- ⅛	3.59	3.72
122⅝	109⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2024	119⅝	- ⅛	3.58	3.70
120⅝	108⅝	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	117⅝	- ⅛	3.60	3.73

هكذا في الدجل

Belief that exports were for civil purpose was a 'Nelsonian use of the blind eye'

The moral case must be set against damage to British economic interests



The Scott report: hundreds of pages detailing the inquiry's findings on the Government's role and responsibilities in the arms-to-Iraq affair

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The following are extracts from the summary of Sir Richard Scott's report:

Over the period from the ceasefire in August 1988 to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 there was a relaxation in Government policy on the export of defence equipment and dual-use goods to Iraq. Policy on the export of lethal equipment remained unaltered. Applications for licences to export lethal equipment to Iraq were hardly ever made. When they were, they were refused. But the position regarding defence equipment not falling into the "lethal" category and regarding dual-use equipment was less clear cut.

As to both non-lethal defence equipment and dual-use goods, of which machine tools and their accessories constitute the most important example, restrictions on exports to Iraq (and Iran) were still maintained. But the restrictions applied to Iraq were not the same as those which had been announced in 1985 and had been in force up to the ceasefire.

Shortly after the ceasefire a policy under which more liberal restrictions would be applied was discussed and formulated and from February 1989 (on a trial basis) or April 1989 (on a confirmed basis), the new relaxed formulation was applied to exports to Iraq. The execution of Mr Bazoft in March 1990 provoked a decision to return to a stricter policy towards Iraq. In June and July 1990 a review of export policy to Iraq and Iran took place and resulted in a decision, reached in mid July 1990, to abandon the special restrictions on exports to Iraq of non-lethal defence equipment and of dual-use goods.

Throughout the period August 1988 to August 1990 restrictions were applied to the export of chemicals and of equipment with potential for the manufacture of chemical weapons or for use in connection with the deployment of those weapons. In addition, restrictions necessary for compliance with obligations under the NNPT and MTCR were applied.

Over the period August 1988 to August 1990 there was, in relation to the export to Iraq of machine tools, a continuing tension between the FCO and the DTI. The DTI was consistently unsympathetic to restrictions on the export to Iraq of standard machine tools and their accessories. The basic reasons for the DTI attitude were twofold. First, the sale to Iraq of machine tools was of importance to the survival of the machine tool industry in the West Midlands. An inability to sell to Iraq would threaten the survival of leading machine tool manufacturers, of whom Matrix Churchill was one.

It was feared that the collapse of any of these companies would lead to a loss of jobs in an area where unemployment was already a serious concern. There was therefore, every reason for the DTI to be anxious to promote the well being of the machine tool manufacturers. Second, the DTI was not persuaded that any important practical benefit could be achieved by refusing the export from the United Kingdom of machine tools to Iraq.

The refusal would not deprive Iraq of the machine tools, Iraq would simply obtain the desired machine tools from manufacturers, trade rivals of the British companies, in other countries. The British exporters would suffer the detriment of loss of business, which would be taken up by foreign trade rivals, with no effect on Iraq save, perhaps, some marginal differences in price or quality. These were, on my assessment, powerful arguments.

The FCO, on the other hand, was concerned with the political and presentational consequences of the sale to Iraq of the machine tools. The likelihood, if not the certainty, of many of the machine tools ending up in munitions or armaments factories was known. The political implications of Britain providing the means for Iraq to build up an indigenous armaments manufacturing facility were viewed with an understandable apprehension. The inclination within the FCO throughout the period was, therefore, to oppose the export of machine tools with a potential for the manufacture of armaments.

The MOD's *de facto* role in resolving differences between the DTI and the FCO was important. At the official level, the MODWG consistently recommended refusal of licences for machine tool exports to Hutteen and Nassr. These recommendations, which accorded with the FCO's inclination, were generally accepted by the IDC. At the ministerial level, however, after Mr Clark succeeded Lord Trefgarne as Minister (DP), MOD support for the DTI resulted, in cases where the case for refusal was not clear cut, in the FCO's inclination for the refusal of licences being overridden.

The tension between FCO and the DTI was mirrored, within the MOD, by a not dissimilar tension between DESO, on the one hand, and the branches of the MOD with responsibility to provide advice on the military potential of exports including the DIS, on the other. DESS filled the role of "honest brokers" in trying to resolve these tensions, but seem when doing so generally to have tended to favour DESO, a tendency which became the stronger when Mr Clark became the Minister (DP).

End use was not explicit

Throughout the period under review, there were no applications for the export of machine tools to Iraq in which the purpose for which the machines would be used was explicitly stated to be the manufacture of armaments. If there had been any such application, it would have been refused. The DTI might have argued in favour of the export and MOD/DESO might have given support, but the arguments would not, in my view, have prevailed against FCO opposition until the review of policy in July 1990 had cleared the way.

If it had been known for certain by the three licensing departments that the intended use of the machine tools in Iraq was the manufacture of munitions, the position would, in my opinion, have been the same. The DTI would, I think, still have argued in favour of the export but the FCO would not have given way and, subject to a review of policy by senior ministers, would, I believe, have prevailed.

In the event, in none of the applications for export licences made by the machine tool manufacturers was it stated that the intended use of the machines in question was the production of ammunition or armaments. In nearly all the applications the stated intended use was couched in imprecise terms, such as "general engineering". In a number of cases the DTI put questions to the manufacturers to clarify the specifications of the machines. In very few cases, however, did the DTI criticise or demand amplification of the imprecise statement of intended use contained in the application forms. When they did ask, they were very easily satisfied.

In a number of cases it was known to the would-be exporters that the intended use of the machines was the production of armaments or munitions. In these cases the imprecise statements in the application forms constituted a deliberate concealment of the known intended use. This deceptive practice was attributable in part to the belief by the manufacturers that they had been encouraged by Mr Alan Clark, in his remarks to them on 20 January 1988, to stress, when applying for licences, the potential civil purposes to which the machines could be put. The deceptive practice was attributable also to a belief by the manufacturers that Government was aware that the likely use of the machines would be munitions production and was complacent about that possibility.

Intelligence overlooked

Within the three licensing departments, the argument as to whether or not export licences for the machine tools should be granted was conducted on the basis that the use of the machines for armaments production was possible but not certain. The degree of believed likelihood varied from time to time. This basis of discussion was, having regard to the volume of intelligence regarding the likely or intended use of the machines, a false one.

In relation to some machines, the content of the available intelligence left no room for doubt about the intended use of the machines. This was so of the machine tools to which the Intelligence Report of 30 November 1987 related, of the machine tools comprised in the Cardoen contracts, of the ABA machine tools (at least at the time when the revalidation application was being considered), and of the machine tools destined for Project 1728.

In the case of the machine tools to which the 30 November 1987 Report related, the exports were allowed to proceed for, mainly, source protection reasons, notwithstanding knowledge by the licensing departments of the intended use.

In relation to the other machine tools, the relevant intelligence, although available, was overlooked and not taken into account in the discussions. Some of the relevant items of intelligence had been distributed to the licensing departments but those involved in the licensing decisions had either forgotten about the intelligence or had not had their attention drawn to the items. Many items of intelligence had not been distributed to the licensing departments at all. Some items had been circulated within MOD/DIS but had not reached the DIS desk with responsibility for export licensing advice.

In addition to intelligence directed to specific machine tools or specific Iraqi projects, there was an ever increasing volume of intelligence from which the Iraqi concentration on building up an indigenous arms production industry was apparent. Individual items of intelligence taken in isolation might have been passed off as inconclusive.

The cumulative volume of intelligence could not be so passed off. By November 1989, at latest, the probability that machine tools destined for Nassr would be used for military production purposes had become so strong that a professed reliance on the possibility of use in civil production and on the lack of certainty of an intended military use had become, in my opinion, equivalent to the Nelsonian use of the blind eye. But this, of course, assumes that the user of the telescope had been made aware of the relevant intelligence. It is probably true that no one person was familiar with all the accumulated intelligence until, in June 1990, the JIC made the assessment that was required for the purposes of the Iraq Note.

The failure of the licensing departments to make effective use of available intelligence was compounded by the failure of certain SIS officers to draw attention to inaccurate statements about current intelligence contained in submissions made by FCO officials to FCO ministers.

The relative lack of interest within SIS in Iraqi procurement diverted to conventional weapons and munitions, as opposed to weapons of mass destruction, was itself a product of the priorities imposed on the SIS by the JIC. It was an attitude shared with many sections of government, for example, SEND in the FCO. Mr Alan Clark made no secret of the clear distinction he drew between conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction. Attempts to prevent Iraq from obtaining the former would, in the absence of an internationally agreed embargo, be bound to fail. A unilateral embargo would merely prejudice British exporters. Attempts to prevent Iraq from obtaining weapons of mass destruction, on the other hand, had, via the NNPT and the MTCR, significant international support and some prospect of practical success.

Accordingly, although it was clear government policy that exports to Iraq of any weapons, conventional or otherwise, would not be licensed, and although the logic of this policy might be thought to demand a refusal to license the export to Iraq of machines intended for the manufacture of weapons, conventional or otherwise, there was, in my opinion, a lack of conviction shared by many sections of government in the value of or need for this policy in so far as standard machine tools, and other goods freely obtainable from other western countries, were concerned. I believe it was this lack of conviction that led the DTI, supported by the MOD, to regard the probability of an intended military use as insufficient to justify the refusal of export licences for the machine tools.

I have already commented on the divergence between actual policy on exports to Iraq and government statements of policy made in the period August 1988 to August 1990. Government's actual policy was well capable of being supported in argument. The utility of unilateral export restrictions was, and is, open to serious question.

The moral case for refusing to allow weapons and defence-related goods to be freely exported to a country under a regime such as Iraq under Saddam Hussein is to be set against the ability of Iraq to obtain the goods from other countries and the damage to British economic interests likely to be caused by the unilateral restrictions. But the failure of government to be forthcoming in its public statements about its export policy to Iraq precluded a public debate on this important issue taking place on an informed basis. Parliament and the public were designedly led to believe that a stricter polcy towards non-lethal defence exports and dual-use exports to Iraq was being applied than was in fact the case.

Iraqi atrocities against Kurds

The following extracts are from the main body of the report:

Over the period February 1989 to July 1989, a number of letters, signed mainly by Mr Waldegrave but a few by Lord Howe, were sent to MPs whose contituents had asked questions about government policy on defence sales to Iraq.

The questions had been prompted by a variety of concerns. The concerns covered specific military exports to Iraq, Iraqi atrocities against the Kurds, Iraqi

Continued on facing page

'I do not think there is anything sinister in this'

'I am justified in saying there was no change in policy and therefore no *necessity to say* anything in Parliament'

William Waldegrave September 22 1993

'Slightly Alice in Wonderland: Mr Waldegrave saying because something was not announced it could not have happened'

Alan Clark December 13 1993

'The extent to which a parliamentary answer should be full, half full or empty is up to the minister'

David Gore-Booth, Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, September 13 1993

'In the Matrix Churchill case it would have been terrible if a defendant had gone to jail as a result of non-disclosure'

Michael Heseltine February 28 1994

'I do not have to tell you *that truth* is a very difficult concept. Many-faceted.'

Ian McDonald, MoD official, October 26 1993

'It was a sham and a contributory reason as to why I left the Foreign Office'

Mark Higson, FO, on ministerial answers in the Commons, July 15 1993

'I realised this was a can of worms'

Lt-Col Richard Glazebrook, MoD. Telling inquiry Whitehall ignored his warnings about Iraq's military build-up. May 11 1993

'There are circumstances in which . . . it is justified to give an answer that falls short of the whole truth'

Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary, Feb 9 1994

'Britain lives or dies by trade and has to maintain markets in some dodgy countries'

David Mellor, former Foreign Office Minister, September 21 1993

'The charge was that because I had been Chancellor, Foreign Secretary, Prime Minister, I must have known what was going on'

John Major January 17 1994

'If I had seen a copy of every document made in my Government, I'd have been in a snow storm'

Baroness Thatcher December 8 1993

'I do not think there is anything very sinister in all this'

Richard Luce, Foreign Office Minister 1983-85 and Scott's first witness, May 4 1993

The inquisitor and the 'hit-woman' who made ministers squirm in relentless quest for the truth

Determined Scott braved critics' wounding blows

By Nigel Williamson
Whitehall Correspondent

THE JUDGE

SIR RICHARD SCOTT has been stung by criticism of his methods. He was accused of acting as "detective, inquisitor, advocate and judge" by the former Foreign Secretary Lord Howe of Aberavon, who argued that the inquiry was a breach of natural justice because witnesses were not cross-examined.

After the collapse of the Matrix Churchill trial in November 1992, the Opposition suggested that the inquiry should be carried out under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921. This would have allowed full representation by counsel for each witness.

The Government rejected this but otherwise gave Sir Richard free rein in determining the nature of the inquiry. He was to be allowed to invite such witnesses as he saw fit and to decide the extent to which he sat in public. The procedures he adopted were "to a considerable extent" for the judge to decide, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, told MPs at the time. Sir Richard believes that representation by lawyers would have taken up too much time and made the inquiry more adversarial. His team points out that witnesses were advised by counsel and granted immunity from prosecution. Civil servants were promised they would face neither disciplinary action nor damage to their careers.

John Major publicly defended the judge's methods. After Lord Howe launched his first attack on Scott when giving evidence to the inquiry in January 1994, the Prime Minister told the Commons: "It was the Government who set up the inquiry and gave Lord Justice Scott the freedom to pursue it as he thinks fit. I have no adverse comments to make on the way he is doing it."

It is no surprise, then, that Sir Richard cannot wait to get back to "real life". When he accepted the appointment in November 1992, he thought that the job would probably last a year to 18 months.

Since October 1994, he has been juggling his administrative duties as Vice-Chancellor at the High Court with finishing the report. What he really enjoys most, say his friends, is sitting on the bench. While he was working on the report he managed just three days in two banking cases.

That his report has taken so long is down to his own precision, his close attention to detail and his scrupulous belief in fairness. No doubt he could have produced a less comprehensive — and less fair — report before now. But he was determined to be thorough and avoid providing the inquiry's detractors with any ammunition.

His critics, whose motive has been to undermine the report even before it was completed, have dismissed him as a vain publicity seeker, a meddler who enjoys the limelight too much. There are some in Whitehall who, in the cosy atmosphere of their clubs, will even mutter the words "class traitor" and ask darkly: "Whatever happened to positive vetting?"

Those who know him well find the criticisms difficult to square with the easy-going man who loves horses, enjoys bridge and who turned up on the morning he was to question Baroness Thatcher in a cloth cap and riding a Raleigh Falcon bicycle. He looked as if he was off to the village fête rather than to take on the most powerful prime minister of modern times.

Sir Richard, 61, was born in India, where his father was an officer in the Gurkha Rifles, but he was moulded in South Africa and at Cambridge, where he was a rugby Blue. Despite such an Establishment background, however, there is something of the unconventional about him.

During the Government's litigation over the publication of *Spycatcher*, he made the landmark ruling that ministers could not gag Peter Wright, the book's author, a former MI5 officer.

In a phrase that should have alerted the Government to the kind of man it was putting in charge of the arms-to-Iraq inquiry, Sir Richard said that press freedom to report allegations of scandal in government was "one of the bulwarks of our democracy".

Sir Richard, riding to work on his Raleigh Falcon

Lawyer made her point with rapier

THE QC

Presiley Baxendale

PRESILEY BAXENDALE was swiftly dubbed "Scott's hit-woman" after clashes with ministers. Ms Baxendale, 44, is renowned for her giggle but is a tough, clinical, fearless interrogator — as witnesses from Prime Ministers to middle-ranking civil servants discovered.

The result of her exchanges with Baroness Thatcher were judged to be a score draw. At one point Lady Thatcher could not conceal her irritation at being asked the same question "again and again and again". But that is the Baxendale style: meticulous sifting of the evidence and returning to consider the point from every angle.

She tied William Waldegrave in knots, leading him to comment at one point: "There is a misunderstanding here, an understandable misunderstanding." He was afterwards reported to have found her style of questioning "offensive". Tim Renton, the former Foreign Office Minister, said that he felt "drained" by his inquisition.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, who has worked closely with Ms Baxendale, said: "She has a deceptive niceness. People are led down the garden path thinking how nice she is. Then suddenly they find a rapier stuck between their ribs."

The daughter of a sweet manufacturer, she studied law at Oxford and was called to the Bar in 1974 after a brief spell teaching. She made her name in a series of child abuse cases, including the public inquiry into the death of Jasmine Beckford. She and her husband Richard Fitzgerald, a tax barrister, have two children and homes in Regent's Park and Sussex.

Her unusual first name is understood to have come about after her parents saw the name on a cup bought by friends at an auction.

From facing page

human rights violations in general; British participation at the Baghdad International Military Fair (which was held from 29 April to 2 May), the British participation at the British Aerospace proposal to sell Hawk Trainer Aircraft to Iraq as well as general apprehension about the sales of arms and defence equipment to the Middle East.

A form of response to be incorporated in the letters sent to the MPs in question was settled in the FCO. The response included the following two sentences (or the gist of them):

"British arms supplies to Iran and Iraq continue to be governed by the strict application of guidelines which prevent the supply of lethal equipment or equipment which would significantly enhance the capability of either side to resume hostilities. These guidelines are applied on a case by case basis."

Letters to MPs incorporating these sentences and signed by Mr Waldegrave numbered some seven in March 1989, five in April, 23 in May, one in June and two in July. Lord Howe signed two similar letters in May and two in July. In one of the April letters and in each of the May, June and July letters the formula was preceded by the statement that: "The Government have not changed their policy on defence sales to Iraq or Iran."

In one letter there was a reference to "our firm and even-handed position over arms sales to Iran and Iraq."

The reference in each of these letters to the criterion that governed the supply of non-lethal defence equipment to Iraq was not accurate. Since the end of February 1989 the criterion for Iraq had been the new formulation, namely, that there would be no supply of equipment which would be of direct and significant assistance to Iraq in the conduct of offensive operations in breach of the ceasefire. The inaccuracy should have been noticed by Mr Waldegrave, who had been one of the midwives at the birth of this new formulation. Lord Howe, on the other hand, had not been informed of the junior minister's agreement on the new formulation.

Every policy has a reason

The statement in the letters that "The Government have not changed their policy on defence sales to Iraq or Iran" was untrue. After the ceasefire Lord Howe had advocated, and the Prime Minister, with the concurrence of senior ministers, had accepted, that a more liberal policy, designed to enable British exporters to take advantage of the glittering opportunities for defence-related sales to Iraq that it was believed would be available, should gradually be adopted.

The discussions between the junior ministers, which began with correspondence in November and December with the ministerial meeting on December 21, 1988, were for the purpose of trying to formulate a new policy which would then be brought to senior ministers and the Prime Minister for approval.

Agreement by the junior ministers had led, by February 1989, to a new, more liberal, policy in the form of revised guideline (iii) being implemented on a trial basis. The proposed new policy, although reversed for Iran following the Rushdie affair, was continued for Iraq and finally confirmed at the April 24, 1989, ministers' meeting and in the correspondence that followed.

Mr Waldegrave knew, first hand, the facts that, in my opinion, rendered the "no change in policy" statement untrue. I accept that, when he signed these letters, he did not regard the agreement he had reached with his fellow ministers as having constituted a change in policy towards Iraq. In his evidence to the inquiry, he strenuously and consistently asserted his belief, in the face of a volume of, to my mind, overwhelming evidence to the contrary, that policy *on* defence sales to Iraq had, indeed, remained unchanged. I did not receive the impression of any insincerity on his part in giving me the evidence he did. But it is clear, in my opinion, that policy on defence sales to Iraq did not remain unchanged.

The proposition that the Government's position over "arms sales to Iran and Iraq" was "even-handed" had been untrue ever since the decision, taken as a consequence of the Rushdie affair, to "return to a more strict approach to Iran". In his letter of March 28, 1989, to Mr Clark, Mr Waldegrave had proposed that "we should now revert to the stricter implementation of the guidelines as applied to Iran", while saying that he saw no reason to change the newly agreed "flexible approach for applications to export defence-related equipment to Iraq". In his letter to Mr Waldegrave of April 13, Lord Trefgarne, the Minister (DP), agreed with the MOD/FCO proposal and the MOD/FCO agreement was put into effect by the MODWG at its meeting on April 14. Mr Waldegrave's letter suggesting that an "even-handed" position was being taken by the Government was dated April 17. Mr Waldegrave has explained that "[his] view (and the advice of his officials) was that the policy was 'even-handed' as applied to the territorial and other ambitions of Iran and Iraq" and that "particular steps taken in the area of exports in reaction to unforeseen events such as the Fatwah and the execution of Mr Bazoft did not detract from the even-handedness or neutrality or impartiality applied to the two states". As to the first part of this explanation, the letter referred to the Government's "even-handed position over *arms sales* to Iran and Iraq" (emphasis added); as to the second, the explanation has, in my opinion, no substance. Every government policy is bound to have some reason behind it. The unforeseen event that was the Fatwah led, inter alia, to a stricter policy on arms sales being applied to Iran than was applied to Iraq. This differential policy was already being implemented by April 17. I could well understand that the reference in the letter to Mr Curry to the "even-handed position" may have been an overlooked refugee from a common form sentence that would, two months earlier, have been unexceptional. But the proposition that on April 17, the date of the letter, it was a true statement is not, in my opinion, remotely arguable.

Statement in letters untrue

In August 1989 a number of letters to MPs, responding to constituents' queries about the Government's attitude to the Hawk project, were sent by Mr Waldegrave. Typical of these letters is his letter date August 10, 1989, written to Mr Tom Sackville MP. The letter said this: "Since the beginning of the conflict between Iran and Iraq, the Government has pursued a policy of impartiality as the most effective way to promote a peaceful settlement in the Gulf. As a result, the Foreign Secretary announced in the House of Commons on October 29, 1985, a set of ministerial guidelines limiting defence sales to Iran and Iraq. These specifically prohibit the sale of any lethal equipment or any defence-related equipment which could significantly enhance the capability of either side to prolong or exacerbate the conflict. All applications for export licences for defence equipment to Iran or Iraq continue to be scrutinised rigorously to ensure that they fall within these guidelines. These restrictions on defence sales are kept under constant review, and are applied in the light of prevailing circumstances, including the ceasefire and developments in the peace negotiations . . ."

Mr Waldegrave, in his written evidence to the inquiry, contended that the passage I have cited was an accurate statement of government policy at the time. It was not. Government policy at the time, agreed between Mr Waldegrave and his fellow ministers, Lord Trefgarne and Mr Clark, was that the export of non-lethal defence equipment to Iraq would not be refused unless the equipment would directly assist Iraq in the conduct of offensive operations in breach of the ceasefire. Mr Waldegrave knew of this new formulation but regarded it as an interpretation or the original guideline (iii). Nonetheless, a statement in August 1989 that applications for export licences for defence equipment for Iraq "continue to be rigorously scrutinised to *ensure* that they fall within *these* guidelines" (emphasis added), seems to me impossible to reconcile with Mr Waldegrave's statement in his letter of March 28, 1989, that "we agreed in February to interpret the export guidelines more flexibly so as to refuse orders for non-lethal equipment only if they would be of direct and significant assistance to either side in the conduct of offensive weapons in breach of the ceasefire", and with his statement in his letter of April 27, 1989, that "we agreed [at the April 24 meeting] that we would continue to interpret the guidelines more flexibly in respect of Iraq, as we have done in practice since the end of last year . . .".

The natural implication

In addition, the natural implication from the reference in the August letters to the "policy of impartiality" would be that that policy had continued up to the date of the letter and was continuing. This, for the reasons I have already given, was, if applied to defence sales, untrue. The constituent's letter which had prompted the letter to Mr Sackville had complained about defence sales to Iraq, and the reference to the policy of impartiality would have been naturally read accordingly. Taken overall, the terms of Mr Waldegrave's letter to Mr Sackville and his other letters in like terms were, in my opinion, apt to mislead the readers as to the nature of the policy on export sales to Iraq that was currently being pursued by the Government. Mr Waldegrave was in a position to know that that was so although I accept that he did not intend his letters to be misleading and did not so regard them. The statement that ". . . the Government have pursued a policy of impartiality . . ." between Iraq and Iran is to be found, also, in letters dated August 14, 1989, August 21, 1989, September 4, 1989, and September 5, 1989, the first from Lynda Chalker, the second from Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, and the other two from Mr Major, as Foreign Secretary. Each letter was a response to a query about government policy on the proposed sale of Hawk aircraft to Iraq. Each letter followed a draft prepared by the FCO/MED. Each letter said, also, that "since October 1985 government policy has prohibited the sale of any lethal equipment or any defence-related equipment which could significantly enhance the capability of either side to prolong or exacerbate the conflict", or words to that effect. In the case of Mrs Thatcher's letter, the text continued: "That policy still applies." These statements were not accurate.

Mrs Chalker had taken no part in the discussions and correspondence that had led to the then current policy on defence sales to Iraq and cannot be blamed for the inaccuracies. I have already dealt with the extent to which Mrs Thatcher was in a position to have identified the inaccuracies. She had received and read the MoD paper dated July 20, 1989, on the Hawk project in which reference was made to the "more flexible interpretation of the guidelines for Iraq (but not Iran . . .) and so can be said to have been placed on notice that a more liberal approach to defence sales to Iraq was being adopted than had previously been the case. But the paper had been concentrating on Hawk and I do not think Mrs Thatcher can be blamed if, when signing the letter of August 21, 1989, she did not recall the implications of the reference to the guidelines in the MoD's July 20 Hawk paper.

Thatcher put on notice

Mr Major had become Foreign Secretary on July 25, 1989, and it might have been expected that, by September, he would have become aware that government policy on the export licensing of non-lethal defence equipment to Iraq was that a more liberal criterion should be applied to Iraq than to Iran, and that the more liberal criterion for Iraq was significantly different from the original 1985 (or 1984) criterion. In his evidence to the inquiry, Mr Major said that he believed throughout that the original guidelines had remained in use and that he had been "advised by those carrying out the policy at operational level that we were impartial" As to the nature of the "impartial" policy, Mr Major said: "I think the Government's approach was impartial in the sense of not aiding either side in the prosecution of the war, or subsequently no doubt in the minds of officials after the war was ended, in enhancement of military capability." However, on July 25, 1989 he received his first brief as Foreign Secretary. The brief had been prepared by Stephen Lamport for the purposes of an OD committee meeting to discuss the Hawk project. Paragraph 3 of the brief said that "since the ceasefire in August 1988, the guidelines have been applied with greater flexibility for Iraq (but since last February, with much greater rigidity for Iran . . .). Our public presentation of our policy on arms supplies to both countries has, however, stayed broadly the same . . ." This briefing did, it seems to me, put Mr Major on notice that Iraq was receiving more favourable treatment than Iran so far as export licensing of defence equipment was concerned, a state of affairs that, in my opinion, calls into question a continuing stance of impartiality.

In his oral evidence, Mr Major disputed this conclusion. He said: "I have no reason to believe, on the advice I received at the time, or the documentation I have subsequently seen, that there was any shift away from the intrinsic impartiality in the 1984 Guidelines, in terms of making sure that the Government was imparital in not aiding one side against the other in the prosecution of the war or the enhancement of its military capability post-war."

In any event, the briefing was directed to the Hawk project and, as with Mrs Thatcher, I do not find it very surprising that Mr Major did not advert to all the implications of the briefing on other issues. I do not doubt Mr Major's evidence that he signed the letters believing the statements they contained to be accurate, but I do not accept that they were in fact accurate.

In August 1989 Mr Alan Clark, who had exchanged ministerial offices with Lord Trefgarne, wrote two letters, one to Mr Richard Needham MP, the other to Sir Michael Shaw MP, containing the same paragraphs (subject to immaterial changes) as those in Lord Trefgarne's letters. Two further letters from Mr Clark, both dated 11 September 1989, also contained these paragraphs.

The September letters had been written in response to letters from constituents to their MPs expressing strong opposition to the porposal that the Government approve the sale to Iraq of Hawk aircraft. The letters had been forwarded by the MPs, Ms Dawn Primarolo and Mr Timothy Raison, to the MOD. The same criticisms apply to Mr Clark's letters as I have made in respect of Lord Trefgarne's letters, *mutatis mutandis*.

The answers to PQs, in both Houses of Parliament, failed to inform Parliament of the current state of government policy on non-lethal arms sales to Iraq. This failure was deliberate and was an inevitable result of the agreement between the three junior ministers that no publicity would be given to the decision to adopt a more liberal, or relaxed, policy, or interpretation of the guidelines, originally towards both Iran and Iraq and, later, towards Iraq alone.

Having heard various explanations as to why it was necessary or desirable to withold knowledge from Parliament and the public of the true nature of the Government's approach to the licensing of non-lethal defence sales to Iran and Iraq respectively, I have come to the conclusion that the overriding and determinative reason was a fear of strong public opposition to the loosening of the restrictions on the supply of defence equipment to Iraq and a consequential fear that the pressure of the opposition might be detrimental to British trading interests.

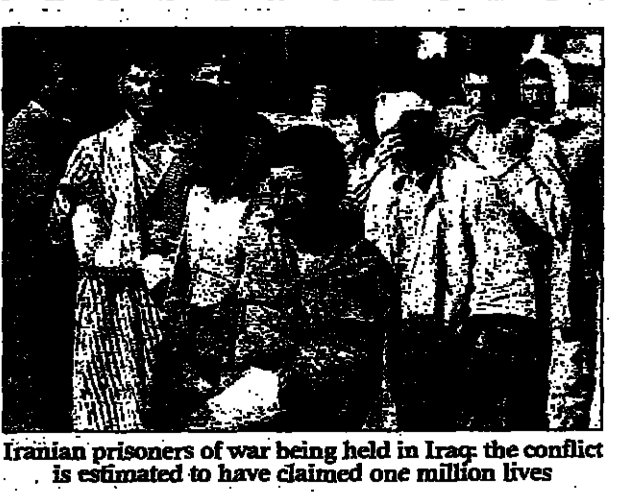
The problem with the "half a picture" approach is that those to whom the incomplete statement is addressed do not know unless it is apparent from the terms of the statement itself, that an undisclosed half is being witheld from them. They are almost bound, therefore, to be misled by the statement, notwithstanding that the "half a picture" may, so far as it goes, be accurate. The proposition is not that a statement to Parliament must include each and every fact relating to the subject in order to avoid

Almost bound to be misled

Continued on next page

How lucrative market backfired

COUNTDOWN TO INQUIRY



Iranian prisoners of war being held in Iraq: the conflict is estimated to have claimed one million lives

☐ **January 1981:** Cabinet's overseas and defence committee discusses "how to exploit Iraq's promising market for arms exports".

☐ **1984:** Foreign Office decides that Britain should not take sides in the war between Iran and Iraq and the Government bans sale of arms.

☐ **October 1985:** Sir Geoffrey Howe, Foreign Secretary, tells MPs that Britain would not "approve orders for any defence equipment which, in our view, would enhance the capability of either side to prolong or exacerbate the conflict".

☐ **November 1987:** first detailed intelligence that British machinery was being used by Iraq to make weapons.

☐ **February 1988:** the Government agrees to machine-tool exports, knowing they would be used in Iraqi arms factories.

☐ **August 1988:** ceasefire announced in Iraq-Iran war.

☐ **December 1988:** Alan Clark, then a Trade Minister, meets William Waldegrave, a Foreign Office Minister, and Lord Trefgarne, a Defence Minister, to consider how the guidelines might be relaxed. Mr Waldegrave said afterwards that the guidelines had not been changed but a "more liberal interpretation" had been agreed.

☐ **January 1988:** Tony Steadman, head of export licensing at the DTI, rings firms to tell them the Iraq export licences have been frozen.

☐ **Later:** Alan Clark meets the manufacturers and tells them he is reversing Mr Steadman's decision. Present is Mark Gutteridge, sales director of Matrix Churchill and an MI5 informer. Mr Clark encouraged the firms to emphasise the machinery's "general engineering" uses and not to mention that they were intended for military applications.

☐ **February 1989:** interpretation of export guidlines toughened again after the fatwa against Salman Rushdie.

☐ **March 1990:** the *Observer* journalist Farzad Bazoft executed in Iraq.

☐ **April 1990:** Dr Gerald Bull, designer of Iraqi "supergun", killed outside his flat in Brussels.

☐ **April 1990:** Customs seizes large steel pipes destined for the supergun.

☐ **July 31, 1990:** Paul Henderson of Matrix Churchill told by DTI that last batch of machine tools cleared for export.

☐ **August 2, 1990:** Iraq invades Kuwait.

☐ **December 1990:** Mr Clark summoned to see John Major and Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary. He admits that he had advised Matrix Churchill to alter specifications "so they would not be seen as suitable for military purposes".

☐ **October 1990:** Customs and Excise decides to prosecute Matrix Churchill.

☐ Gerald Hosker, the Treasury Solicitor, draws up plan to use public interest immunity certificates to stop top-secret government documents, including MI5 and MI6 papers, being released in court.

☐ **November 1992:** Matrix Churchill trial opens at the Old Bailey. Geoffrey Robertson, QC, persuades Judge Smedley to ignore the PII certificates and the case collapses.

☐ **November 1992:** Sir Richard Scott appointed to conduct independent inquiry.

The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Public Limited Company

Final dividend 1995

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on 11th April, 1996 for the preparation of warrants for a Final dividend for the year 1995 of 20.4p per 25p Ordinary Share. If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 15th May, 1996 the dividend will be paid on 22nd May, 1996.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar:- Lloyds Bank Registrars, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex BN99 6DA, not later than 3pm on 11th April, 1996.

SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 195 which must be deposited at Lloyds Bank, Registrar's Department, Issues Section, Ground Floor, P.O. Box 1000, Antholin House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL (not later than 11th April, 1996, to receive payment on 22nd May 1996) or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Frères et Cie, 121 boulevard Haussmann, 75382, Paris Cedex 08.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Miss J. E. Munsiff
Secretary

Shell Centre,
London SE1 7NA
15th February, 1996

هكذا ق الرجل

Judge condemns ministers' secrecy for reasons of convenience or to avoid embarrassment

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being misleading. Such a requirement would clearly be impracticable. A fair summary of the "full picture" would often, depending on the question that had been asked and the apparent purpose of the statement, be a complete and sufficient response. The proposition is that if part of the picture is being suppressed and the audience does not know it is being suppressed, the audience will be misled into believing the half picture to be the full picture.

Lord Howe's unapologetic acceptance of and support for the divergence between Government's statements of policy and Government's actual policy revealed by the public statements to which I have earlier referred was, in my opinion, more realistic than Sir Robin Butler's and Mr Gore-Booth's attempts to reconcile the giving of answers that designedly disclosed only part of the picture with the obligation to avoid giving misleading answers.

It is, rightly, accepted that there have always been and will always be subjects in respect of which full information, or sometimes any information, cannot be made public. Current operations of the security and intelligence agencies come easily to mind as examples. Sir Robin Butler, in evidence to the inquiry and, also, to the Treasury and the Civil Service Select Committee, instanced information about imminent changes in interest rates or in exchange rates.

The public interest may require information about proposed changes to be withheld from the public. The examples are cogent. It ought, nonetheless, to be recognised that the obligation of ministers to give information about the activities of their departments and to give information and explanations for the actions and omissions of their civil servants lies at the heart of ministerial accountability and that every decision by a minister to withhold information from Parliament and from the public constitutes an avoidance, and sometimes an evasion, *pro tanto*, of ministerial accountability.

The importance, if ministerial accountability is to be effective, of the provision of full and adequate information is, in my opinion, self-evident. If, and to the extent that, the account given by a minister to Parliament, whether in answering parliamentary questions or in a debate, or to a select committee, withholds information on the matter under review, it is not a full account, and the obligation to account for what has happened, or for what is being

Misleading answers

done, has, prima facie, not been discharged. Without the provision of full information it is not possible for Parliament, or for that matter the public, to hold the executive fully to account.

It follows, in my opinion, that the withholding of information by an accountable minister should never be based on reasons of convenience or for avoidance of political embarrassment and should always require special and strong justification.

I well understand the point being made by Sir Michael Quinlan and it may be right that the answers to parliamentary questions of which I have been critical must be judged in the context of the parliamentary game described in the paper. But the giving of answers to parliamentary questions is not simply a part of the game described by Sir Michael, played for the benefit of and under unexpressed rules understood by the parliamentary players.

The answers are also an important medium by which information about government and its activities are made available to the public. It is to be noticed that the respects in which the answers to the parliamentary questions about government policy on defence exports to Iraq were inadequate and misleading were also respects in which some of the letters written in response to correspondence from members of the public were inadequate and misleading.

The context described by Sir Michael's paper for the answers to PQs would have no application to those letters. The context does not, in my opinion, excuse the inade-

Were rules changed?

quate or misleading character either of the answers to PQs or, *a fortiori*, of the letters to MPs to which I have referred. In the circumstances, the government statements made in 1989 and 1990 about policy on defence exports to Iraq consistently failed, in my opinion, to comply with the standard set by paragraph 27 of the Questions of Procedure for Ministers and, more important, failed to discharge the obligations imposed by the constitutional principle of Ministerial accountability.

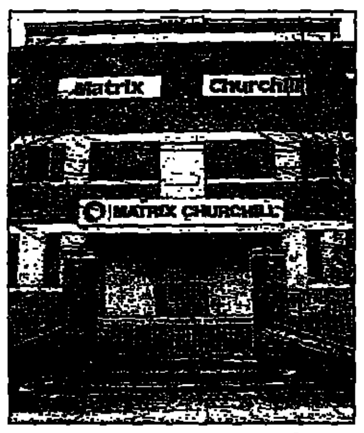
I have referred earlier in this section of the report to arguments that have been put forward in support of the proposition that the guidelines, as announced in 1985, remained in force and unchanged notwithstanding the agreement reached by the junior ministers over the period December 1988 to May 1989. For a number of reasons I do not accept that propositions or the arguments.

First, it is argued that the relaxation of the guidelines agreed upon by the junior ministers did not constitute a change in the guidelines but was no more than a liberal, relaxed interpretation, or implementation, of them. This argument, I must make clear, is not one that was produced by its proponents for the purposes of meeting questions put by the inquiry. It was a viewpoint widely expressed at the time. A clear exposition is contained in Mr Waldegrave's letter to Mr Clark of March 28, 1989, namely: "As a result of the ceasefire we agreed in February to interpret the export guidelines more flexibly so as to refuse orders for non-lethal equipment only if it would be of direct and significant assistance to either side in the conduct of offensive operations in breach of the ceasefire."

This "interpretation" is said to be consistent with the flexibility inherent in the guidelines from their inception. It was this "interpretation" that had been applied to Iraq since February 1989 and was confirmed for Iraq at the end of April 1989. In Mr Waldegrave's written comments, the use of revised guideline (iii) is described as follows: "The revised form of guideline (iii) was used by the MODWG and IDC in January and February 1989 as a temporary working premise on a trial basis. After the fatwa, ministers decided that the suggested change in the guidelines should not go ahead and that instead the original guidelines were to be applied with flexibility. Thereafter, the MODWG and IDC applied the original guidelines restrictively for Iran and liberally for Iraq. In the case of Iraq, this meant in practice that those groups used the suggested revised form of guideline (iii) as an interprative gloss on the original guidelines."

Mr Henderson outside the Old Bailey after the collapse of his trial. He was out of work for two years but up to 100 former Matrix Churchill staff have not had a job since

The workers who continue to pay the price



Empty shell: the Matrix Churchill factory this week

By Nigel Williamson
Whitehall Correspondent

MATRIX CHURCHILL

THE Matrix Churchill factory in Coventry stands derelict today. The For Sale signs hang forlornly but no one is interested in buying the silent plant with broken windows and boarded doors.

More than 650 skilled workers once worked there. They are the real victims of the arms-to-Iraq affair, according to Paul Henderson, the firm's former managing director.

Mr Henderson would be the first to admit that he is no angel. The business he was in was a dirty one and he acted as an informant for MI6 on the state of the Iraqi arms industry, telling the security services some of what he was up to. He still has no qualms about supplying a tyrant such as Saddam Hussein.

But he says that what should not be forgotten, amid speculation over the future of here-today-and-gone-tomorrow politicians, is that Britain has lost its "fastest-growing machine tool company" with an annual turnover of £54 million.

In February 1991, Mr Henderson and his two fellow directors were arrested. He had been warned by MI6 to expect a routine visit from Customs and Excise. In the end, 16 officers arrived and arrested him for lying on export licence applications. The charge carried a maximum seven-year jail sentence. MI6, he says, washed their hands of him and he spent a night in Wormwood Scrubs.

Eighteen months later he was tried at the Old Bailey for illegally exporting arms-making machinery to Iraq. He says that he is not bitter but he does feel that the security services and Government left him to hang in the wind.

"I have been waiting for this day because I just want the Scott report over and done with," he said. "It has been five and a half years. It has all dragged on far too long."

Up to 100 of his former workforce have never worked again. Others have been reduced to scratching a living by taxi-driving or repairing cars outside their homes. "The guys on the shop floor were the ones who lost out. I hope people won't forget that. Any government minister who goes as a result of Scott won't find it very hard to get another job."

For more than two years during and after the trial he was unemployed. He is now the chief executive of Productions Systems International, a West Midlands company making welding machinery for the car industry.

"Justice was done as far as I was concerned when the case at the Old Bailey collapsed. The report reinforces the message. We lost a good company and a lot of skilled people for nothing. Just as long as people don't forget that."

The viewpoint expressed in the passage from Mr Waldegrave's letter that I have cited, and exemplified in the passage cited from his written comments, does not seem to me to correspond with reality. The revised formulation of guideline (iii) was intended to do two things: first, it was intended, in view of the termination of the conflict, to re-state guideline (iii) in a manner that could make sense; second, it was intended to release from the guidelines non-lethal equipment whose military value was primarily defensive. If that second purpose had not been present, the reference to "*offensive* operations in breach of the ceasefire" would not have been included and the limiting adjective "direct" would not have been necessary. To describe this revised formulation as no more than an interpretation of the old, is, in my opinion, notwithstanding the many advocates who espoused the thesis, so plainly inapposite as to be incapable of being sustained by serious argument. In my opinion, the agreement to which Mr Waldegrave referred in his March 28, 1989, letter was, on any ordinary use of language, an agreement to adopt a new and more liberal policy towards sales of applying a revised formulation of guideline (iii) in place of the original. The intended effect of the revised guideline was to release a certain class of non-lethal defence equipment from the guidelines.

I accept that Mr Waldegrave and the other adherents of the "interpretation" thesis did not, in putting forward the thesis, have any duplicitous intention and, at the time, regarded the relaxed interpretation, or implementation, of guideline (iii) as being a justifiable use of the flexibility believed to be inherent in the guidelines. But that under-

'Duplicitous flexibility'

lines, to my mind, the duplicitous nature of the flexibility claimed for the guidelines. Flexibility that reflects the differences of opinion that may arise whenever an attempt is made to apply a criterion that depends upon a value judgment is inevitable and desirable. For example, whether an enhancement of military capability is "significant" is a matter on which opinions may differ. If opinions do differ, a decision falling within the spectrum created by those differences can legitimately be described as an application of the criterion. Guideline (iii) had, thus, an inherent and entirely acceptable flexibility. But the removal from the scope of guideline (iii) of non-lethal defence equipment of a primarily defensive nature is not a "flexible interpretation" of the guidelines. It is a decision that the guidelines will not be applied so as to restrict the sale of a certain class of defence equipment. The description of that decision as being merely a flexible interpretation, or flexible implementation, of the guidelines is bound to be misleading to anyone who does not know the substance of the decision.

It was argued, also that because the revised formulation of guideline (iii) had never been approved by senior ministers or the Prime Minister, it could not have become government policy and could have been no more than an interpretation, relaxed and flexible, of the original guideline (iii). This argument, in my opinion, fails to distinguish between form and substance. I accept that the three junior ministers who, over the period December 1988 to May 1989, agreed on the new line to be adopted towards defence related exports to Iraq and Iran, knew that any formal alteration in the guidelines announced in 1985 would require the approval of senior ministers and the Prime Minister.

The conduct of the debate from September 1988 to Feburary 1989 had been on that footing. I accept also that in deciding that the agreed approaches to defence exports to Iraq and Iran respectively could be described as being interpretations of the 1985 guidelines, the junior ministers believed that they were avoiding a formal change of the 1985 guidelines.

But, however, the agreement reached by the junior ministers be described, if the substance of the agreement was to change the criterion that would be applied to applications for licences to export defence equipment to Iraq, they were, in any ordinary use of language, agreeing on a change of policy. I regard the explanation that this could not be so because the approval of the senior ministers and the Prime Minister had not been obtained as sophistry.

Questions of Procedure for Ministers identifies as one of the facets of ministerial accountability the duty to give Parliament, and the public "as full information as possible

Ministerial accountability

about the policies, decisions and actions of the Government, and not to deceive or mislead Parliament and the public". Example after example has come to light of an apparent failure by Ministers to discharge that obligation.

The Howe guidelines [drawn up by Geoffrey Howe] were agreed in December 1984 but when in April and May 1985 parliamentary questions about government policy on defence sales to Iran and Iraq came to be answered, the existence of the guidelines was deliberately not disclosed.

From 1983 until the ceasefire in August 1988, arrangements were in place for defence sales to Iraq to be facilitated by the provision of medium-term ECGD credit cover. This defence allocation represented an agreed proportion of the credit facilities for Iraq which had been agreed between the United Kingdom and Iraq. Yet when in 1990 parliamentary questions sought details of the protocols, no mention was made of the defence allocation.

A written answer given to a parliamentary question in January 1990 seeking the "total capital project cost cover offered under the export credit guarantee system" to a number of specified countries refused to supply the information. The ground given for the refusal was "commercial confidentiality".

Government statements in 1989 and 1990 consistently failed to disclose either the terms of the adjustment to the guidelines that had followed the ceasefire or the decision to adopt a more liberal policy on defence sales to Iraq.

The answer given in February 1991 to Mr Tony Banks's question asking whether any MoD officials attended the Baghdad Military Exhibition of April/May 1989 represented a deliberate concealment from Parliament of the circumstances under which Mr David Hastie had attended the exhibition.

The long and winding road that led to 1,800 pages

THE INQUIRY

☐ **When was the inquiry set up?**
Almost 40 long months ago, in November 1992.

☐ **What was its remit?**
To examine whether ministers and officials operated within guidelines on arms exports to Iraq.

☐ ***Who is Scott?***
He was appointed a Chancery judge in 1983. Last year the Government promoted him to Vice Chancellor of the Supreme Court, one of the most senior judicial appointments.

☐ **Why was he chosen?**
He himself has sometimes wondered. Lord Mackay of Clashfern recommended him to John Major.

☐ **Where has he been based for the past three years?**
In an anonymous DTI office in Palace Street, between Victoria and Buckingham Palace. The building was a former hotel and at times, putting in 12-hour days, Sir Richard must have wished it still was.

☐ **What does he do in the real world?**
Rides to hounds and rides a bicycle which became much loved by Fleet Street picture editors. For the record, it's a Raleigh Falcon with 18 gears.

☐ ***What's his form?***
Mixed. Gave the Government a bloody nose in 1987 over Spycatcher, ruling that ministers could not gag Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer. But did the Government a favour during the miners' strike in 1984-85, when he granted an injunction limiting pickets at each pit to six.

☐ **Friends and enemies?**
A private, family man who sees no reason to belong to a London club. He has, however, assembled an impressive list of powerful enemies during the course of his inquiry, including Lord Howe. But, as he said, "they weren't on my Christmas card list anyway."

☐ ***Any regrets?***
He has a few. He never dreamt that the inquiry would take as long as it has and cannot wait to get back to "real life" — a strange description, some might say, for the High Court.

☐ **What help did he have?**
About a dozen disciples laboured with him from November 1992, including Presiley Baxendale, QC, and Christopher Muttukumaru, secretary to the inquiry.

☐ ***What help did Whitehall have?***
About 17 civil servants working in "Scott units" in five different Government departments, "co-ordinating" the offical response.

☐ **What kind of bill did he run up?**
£1.8 million.

☐ **And Whitehall?**
£1.9 million. Oh, and a further £925,000 spent on legal advice to ministers and civil servants.

☐ ***A grand total of?***
£4.6 million

☐ **Why did it take Scott so long?**
See next five questions.

☐ **How many official documents were examined?**
200,000, "a guestimate to the nearest 10,000. We haven't actually had time to count them all." However, Scott did *read* every single one. John Major regretted — sorry, commended — his "thoroughness".

☐ ***How many witnesses submitted written evidence?***
270, and many of the submissions ran to dozens of pages. Again, Scott ploughed through every page.

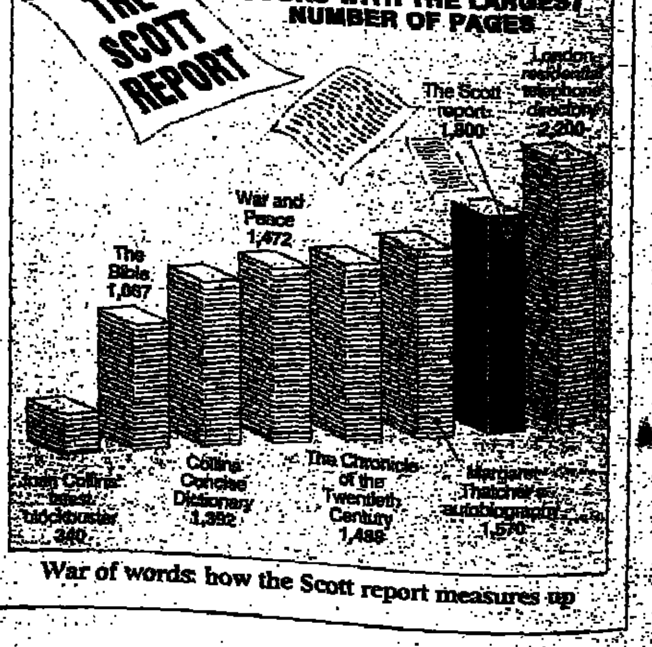
☐ **How many days of public hearings?**
87, covering over 400 hours of evidence, between May 1993 and July 1994.

☐ ***How many public witnesses were called?***
61, including 19 ministers or former ministers.

☐ **How many witnesses were heard *in closed session?***
12, mostly MI5 and MI6 agents, who gave more than 50 hours of secret evidence.

☐ ***Have there been any leaks?***
Astonishingly few. Sections of the draft concerning William Waldegrave's role were leaked to the BBC in June last year. Otherwise, security has been almost watertight.

☐ **What does it all boil down to?**
1,800 pages in five volumes. Yours for £45.



War of words: how the Scott report measures up

Tangled tale that began with murder and ended with collapse of Saddam's pipe dream

Matrix Churchill 'told to play down arms application'

By Nigel Williamson

ON A grey day in April 1990 a Canadian ballistics expert was shot from behind with a silenced pistol as he fumbled for the keys of his sixth-floor flat in Brussels.

Dr Gerald Bull's killers could have been sent by Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, or possibly by the Iranians. Both countries had a motive.

Bull's company, SRC, had been responsible for building the Iraqis a huge gun, from components made by mainly British firms, and allegedly capable of firing nuclear warheads great distances.

A week after Bull's death, Customs and Excise seized a consignment of steel tubes awaiting export at Teesport. The pipes, made by Sheffield Forgemasters, were allegedly intended to carry oil but were, in fact, for a 1,000mm gun to be built secretly in the Iraqi desert known as Project Babylon, or the "supergun".

Sir Hal Miller, a Tory MP whose Bromsgrove constituency included Walter Somers, one of the firms responsible for making the pipes, claimed that the Government had licensed the tubes for export despite MI6 knowing all about the supergun. He told the Scott inquiry that he had personally alerted the intelligence services after Rex Bayliss, the firm's managing director, confided his suspicions about the true nature of the export.

MI6 had also been alerted to the supergun by Paul Henderson, managing director of Matrix Churchill, whose firm was involved in making shells for the weapon. Paul Grecian, managing director of Ordtec, a Reading arms firm, had given MI6 the first tip about the supergun.

A third firm, Astra, had also disclosed details to the Ministry of Defence in 1989 of a contract which its Belgian subsidiary had to supply propellant to SRC.

MI6 had in fact known since at least 1987 that British firms had signed contracts to supply machine tools for Iraqi munitions factories.

It was January 1988 before Tony Steadman, head of export licensing at the DTI, told the firms that the licences were frozen. Local MPs said that jobs would be lost and the security services realised freezing the orders might alert the Iraqis to its intelligence and endanger informants.

SUPERGUN

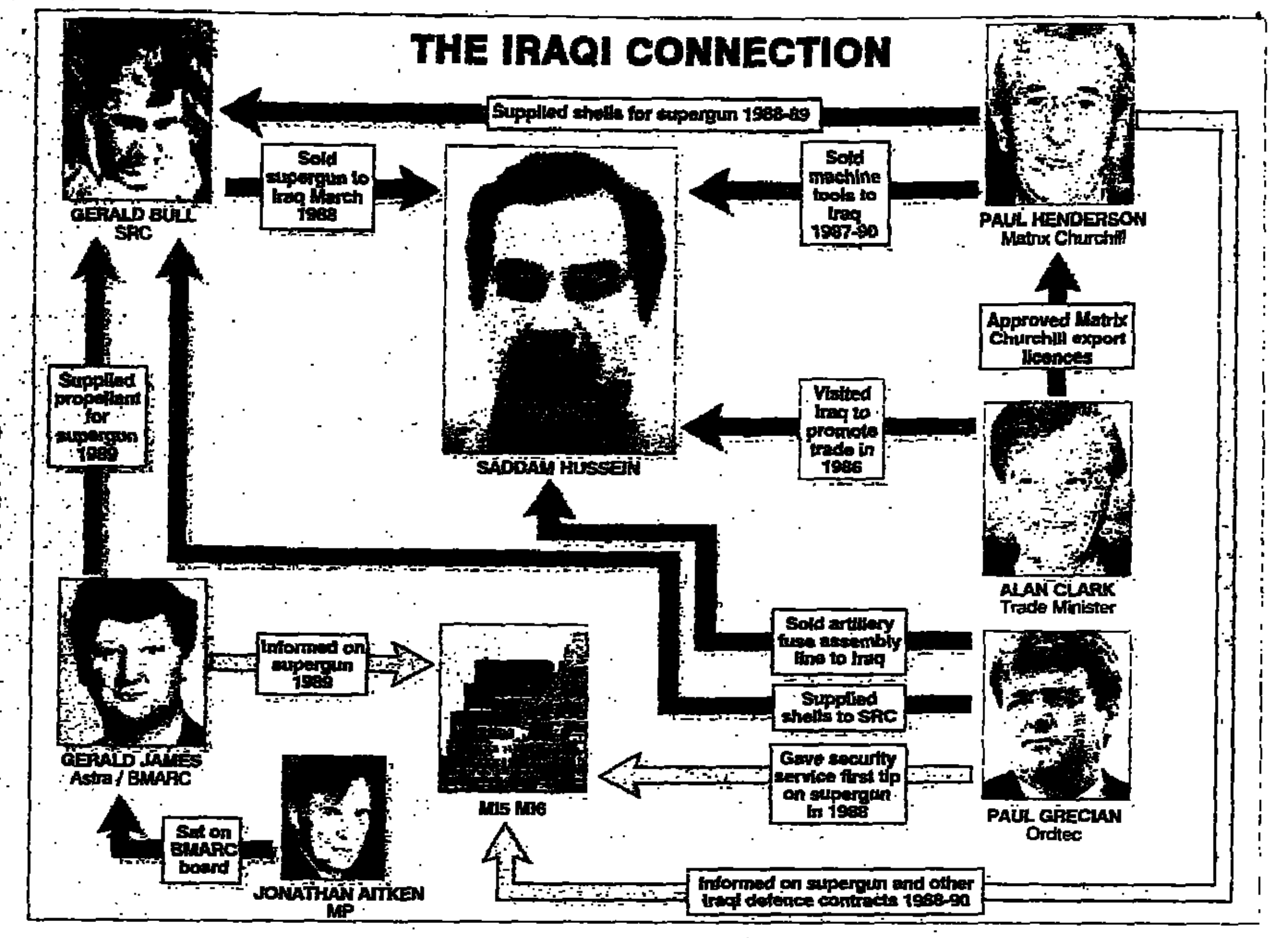
Alan Clark, then a Trade Minister, met with the manufacturers and told them the exports would, after all, be allowed. One of those at the meeting was Mark Gutteridge, sales director of Matrix Churchill, who had been recruited as an MI5 informer in 1986. Clark encouraged the firms to emphasise the machinery's "general engineering" uses.

On August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Customs and Excise decided it was time to act against firms which it believed were exporting arms-linked machinery to Iraq. In August 1990 they raided the Reading-based firm Ordtec and subsequently secured convictions in February 1992 of Paul Grecian, the managing director, and three others for illegal arms exports. They also raided Matrix Churchill, having been tipped off by German customs that industrial lathes apparently destined for a Chilean arms-dealer were intended for an Iraqi artillery plant.

When Michael Coolican, Department of Trade and Industry export controls head, learned that Customs officers were to visit the firm, he sent Nicholas Ridley, then Trade Secretary, an anxious memo. Mr Coolican realised the implications of an investigation. He knew, particularly, about the decision ministers had taken two years earlier to allow Matrix Churchill to export a large quantity of machine tools to Iraq. A trial, he said, would mean the Government's "dirty washing" could be aired in public, while the timing was "extraordinarily embarrassing" for the DTI.

That December, *The Sunday Times* reported that, if prosecuted, the Matrix Churchill directors would say the Government knew what they were doing. They would also say that Alan Clark gave them "a nod and a wink" to continue the exports — an allegation Mr Clark vigorously denied.

The case against the supergun manufacturers was dropped but Customs pressed ahead with Matrix Churchill, and Henderson and two other colleagues were arrested in February 1991. As the trial opened at the Old Bailey in November 1992, Geoffrey Robertson, QC, persuaded Judge Smedley to ignore the PII certificates. The case collapsed and in the ensuing outcry John Major asked Sir Richard Scott to conduct his inquiry.


THE IRAQI CONNECTION
Supplied shells for supergun 1988-89
Sold supergun to Iraq March 1988
Sold machine tools to Iraq 1987-90
GERALD BULL
SRC
PAUL HENDERSON
Matrix Churchill
Approved Matrix Churchill export licences
Supplied propellant for supergun 1989
Visited Iraq to promote trade in 1986
SADDAM HUSSEIN
ALAN CLARK
Trade Minister
Sold artillery fuse assembly line to Iraq
Supplied shells to SRC
Informed on supergun 1989
Gave security service first tip on supergun in 1988
GERALD JAMES
Astra / BMARC
MI5 MI6
PAUL GRECIAN
Ordtec
Sat on BMARC board
JONATHAN AITKEN
MP
Informed on supergun and other Iraqi defence contracts 1988-90

Suppression prompted guilty plea

WHEN the Lord Chief Justice quashed the convictions of four men in the Ordtec case last November it meant Customs and Excise had lost every one of its high-profile prosecutions seeking to enforce Sir Geoffrey Howe's guidelines on arms exports to Iraq (Nigel Williamson writes).

The four men were given suspended prison sentences or fined after being convicted in 1992 of illegally exporting an artillery fuse assembly line to Iraq. The defendants were advised to plead guilty by their lawyers after Kenneth Baker, the then Home Secretary, and Peter Lilley, Trade Secretary, signed public interest immunity certificates seeking to withhold government papers.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, ruled that the Government should not have withheld vital papers from the defence through the use of PII certificates and that it should have been disclosed to the court that Paul Grecian, one of the defendants, had been an informant for MI5 and MI6.

ORDTEC

He ruled that the businessmen's conviction in 1992 for selling 300,000 artillery fuses to Iraq on an export licence that gave Jordan as the destination was not "safe and satisfactory" after documents from the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Office and the security services were produced showing wide knowledge of the deal and complicity across Whitehall.

Mr Grecian, the managing director of Reading-based Ordtec, and two colleagues, Bryan Mason and Stuart Blackledge, received suspended jail sentences at Reading Crown Court in February 1992. A fourth man, Colin Phillips, was fined.

Among the information withheld at their trial were security services papers showing that Mr Grecian, like Paul Henderson of Matrix Churchill, had acted as an informer on the Iraqi arms build-up.

Despite having pleaded guilty, the Ordtec four decided to appeal when they saw the outcome of the aborted Matrix Churchill trial.

In May last year Douglas Hurd, the then Foreign Secretary, and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, signed further PII certificates to prevent the documents being used in the appeal. In the end Lord Taylor ruled that most of the material should be made available to the defence legal team. It showed that Mr Grecian had had, in the judge's words, "sustained contact" with MI5 and MI6 through a Special Branch controller called Stephen Wilkinson and that Whitehall had turned a "blind eye" to the use of Jordan as a front for Iraqi arms procurement.

After the appeal, Mr Grecian told *The Times* that the five-year legal battle had cost him his livelihood. He is facing further charges in America in connection with alleged arms sales to Iraq and is currently being held in South Africa while the American authorities seek his extradition.

Stance on Iran-Iraq conflict triggered confusion

By a Staff Reporter

IT WAS the Foreign Office's decision in 1984 that Britain should not take sides in the war between Iran and Iraq which eventually led to the confusion over the interpretation of arms export guidelines which lies at the heart of the Scott report Lord Howe of Aberavon, then Foreign Secretary, advised Margaret Thatcher that guidelines should be drawn up on defence sales to the two countries but that no high-profile announcement was necessary.

GUIDELINES

The guidelines were duly devised at the end of 1984 but not made public until October 29 1985 in a written Parliamentary answer to Sir David Steel.

The rules confirmed the Government's ban on arms sales to both Iraq and Iran but also said that export licences should not be issued for any equipment which would "significantly enhance the capacity of either side to prolong or exacerbate the conflict".

However, even then Lord Howe noted that the guidelines were designed to allow ministers "a modicum of flexibility" in deciding what should and should not be exported.

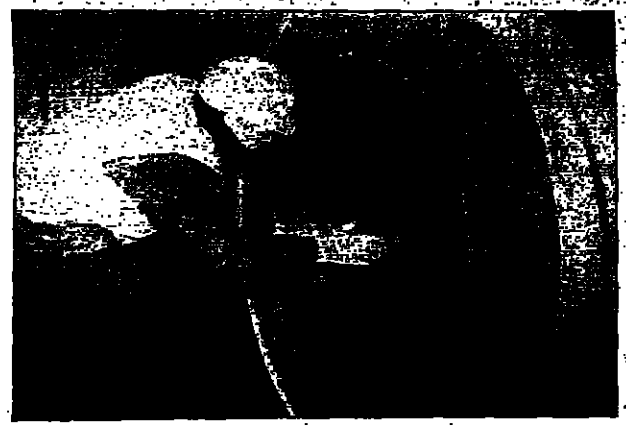
By 1988, when a ceasefire was announced in the Iran-Iraq war, pressure from industry for the guidelines to be relaxed had grown irresistable. New markets beckoned in the Middle East. The Foreign Office was persuaded and Lord Howe wrote to Mrs Thatcher urging "relaxing control" on some exports.

Mr Clark then met with William Waldegrave, then a Foreign Office minister, and the then defence minister, Lord Trefgarne, on December 21, 1988, to consider how the guidelines might be relaxed.

Mr Waldegrave insisted afterwards that as a result of that meeting the guidelines had not been changed but a "more liberal interpretation" of the original Howe guidelines had been agreed. Mr Clark, however, believed that a "significant" change had happened. He also subsequently said that Mrs Thatcher's office had been informed, although she told the inquiry she had no knowledge of the matter.

Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet secretary, later concluded that an "unpublished relaxation" of the guidelines had been agreed.

Monstrous weapon may have been a white elephant gun


Elements of the "supergun" were seized at Teesport

IT was one of the most extraordinary weapons projects ever devised and was the first indication that Saddam Hussein was using British firms to build his war machine, despite a United Nations and Government embargo.

Saddam apparently planned to construct a series of massive guns capable of firing nuclear or chemical warheads vast distances across the Middle East. They included at least two 350mm artillery pieces — twice the calibre of a conventional howitzer — and one truly enormous 1,000mm gun. Project Babylon, as it was codenamed, was the brainchild of remarkable Canadian ballistics expert Gerald Bull, who had teamed up with the Iraqi dictator to realise his ambition of constructing the world's biggest gun. For Saddam, the project offered the prospect of providing him with a weapon capable of threatening his arch enemy, Israel.

PROJECT BABYLON

The existence of the supergun project was revealed in April 1990, when Customs and Excise officers seized a consignment of large steel pipes awaiting export at Teesport.

Investigators said the tubes, which were supposedly for an oil pipeline, were actually destined for an enormous weapons project in the wilderness of the Iraqi mountains. It emerged that just a week before the seizure Dr Bull had been killed outside his flat in Brussels. Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service, and Iranian agents were both put forward as possible suspects — certainly, both countries had sufficient motive.

The then Trade and Industry Secretary, the late Nicholas Ridley, whose department had licensed the steel tubes for export, told the Commons that the Government had only "recently" learnt they were for the gun project. But his account was quickly challenged by Tory MP Sir Hal Miller, whose Bromsgrove constituency included one of the firms responsible for making the pipes, Walter Somers.

Sir Hal later told the Scott inquiry that some two years earlier he had alerted the intelligence services after the firm's managing director, Rex Bayliss, confided his suspicions about what the tubes were really for. He said Mr Bayliss had even offered to mark the pipes so that they could be tracked by by satellite.

The true military value of Project Babylon was never really established. Following the Gulf War, UN observers discovered a single enormous gun in the wilds of northern Iraq, but experts questioned the weapon's ability to deliver missiles with any accuracy. It may, in the end, have been the biggest military white elephant of all.

Judges could shun arduous task

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

JUDICIAL INQUIRIES

IF THE Government in effect "thumbs its nose" at Sir Richard Scott's recommendations, no High Court judge will happily take on another government inquiry for some time.

Many MPs voiced disquiet, while the Scott inquiry was under way, about the use of judges such as Lord Nolan and Sir Richard to inquire into their affairs. Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, Conservative chairman of the Commons home affairs committee, has said that judges should stay out of inquiries that might jeopardise their independence.

For their part, judges may feel disinclined to work the hours required for no extra financial reward, only to have their painstaking conclusions shelved or "cherry-picked", with only the least controversial proposals adopted. Sir Richard's inquiry took three years and he remained on his normal salary. He has worked longer hours than he would as head of the High Court Chancery division. His holidays have been far shorter.

Judges have long chaired inquiries. They include that into allegations of child abuse in Cleveland (Lady Justice Butler-Sloss in 1988) and the Hillsborough disaster (Lord Justice Taylor in 1989), as well as political inquiries such as Lord Denning's into the Profumo affair in 1963.

Until recently there was no question but that governments would act on a judicial inquiry's findings. But Lord Nolan, who inquired into standards in public life, was up against a wall of opposition.

As for Scott, Lord Howe of Aberavon claimed Sir Richard should have followed the rules laid down for inquiries by Lord Justice Salmon in 1966, recommending that witnesses be legally represented. But Anthony Scrivener, QC, a former Bar chairman, writing in *The Times* this week, said: "The procedure at the Scott inquiry was eminently fair."

Emphasis of PIIs changed by use in criminal cases

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

PUBLIC interest immunity certificates (PIIs), originally called Crown Privilege, were introduced in 1947 when the Crown Proceedings Act stated for the first time that the Crown could be sued.

The Act also said the Crown need not disclose documents when to do so would be harmful to the public interest. It allows courts to order that documents should not be produced where disclosure would be contrary to the public interest.

The way in which non-disclosure has been used has developed, particularly in criminal cases over recent years. Most of the law concerning PII certificates stems from their use in civil proceedings and many lawyers argued that it was wrong, where the liberty of the subject was at stake, that they should come into play at all in criminal trials.

The rise of PII certificates in criminal trials has occurred in the past five years. A series of cases has widened the duty on the prosecution to disclose evidence, in particular a ruling in 1989 by Mr Justice Henry in the Guinness trials, and later in 1993, in the case of Judith Ward, who was acquitted after serving 17 years for bombing an army coach.

As a direct result, prosecuting authorities were forced — they argue — to develop the law on PIIs. "As more material had to be disclosed, so the need widened to protect classes of material."

Sir Richard Scott took the view that there was no justification ever for withholding evidence in criminal proceedings. He said the law was always as Lord Woolf stated it to be in the Wiley case. Sir Nicholas Lyell, QC, the Attorney-General, with the backing of a series of rulings and senior legal figures including Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Laws, argued the contrary.

IMMUNITY

Sir Nicholas took as his leading authority the case of Makanjuola in 1989 in which Lord Justice Bingham (now Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls), said PII was a duty that could not be waived. It was not a "trump card vouchsafed to certain privileged players to play when and as they wish".

The Scott inquiry may well have hastened the new policy but it was another senior judge who ushered it in — Lord Woolf, in a landmark House of Lords ruling in July 1994, known as Wiley against the Chief Constable of West Midlands.

In comments aside from the judgment, Lord Woolf outlined what has become the basis of PII policy. Ministers, he said, were not obliged to sign PII certificates if material fell within a certain protected class and to leave it to the judge to decide whether the public interest lay in disclosure or not.

Instead, ministers could themselves make the decision in favour of disclosure although if they decided against, then it would still be for the courts ultimately to decide.

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هكذا من الاهمل

■ THEATRE 1

Craig Raine's powerful updating of Racine, *1953*, is given a fine new staging at the Almeida

■ THEATRE 2

Superb scenery but an indifferent cast for a Leeds revival of Gogol's *Government Inspector*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC 1

Passion flows on Valentine's Day, as Roger Norrington leads Berlioz's *Romeo et Juliette*

■ MUSIC 2

Shortcomings of diction and expression mar Amanda Roocroft's night at the Wigmore Hall

THEATRE: **Benedict Nightingale** hails Raine's updating of Racine. Plus, Gogol for the eyes only, and a flop for tots

Poet's pen as mighty as the sword

1953
Almeida

Something giddy and Gallic is in the cold London air. Months go by without a sniff of a 17th-century French classic, and then two turn up on consecutive days, each transposed to the most unlikely of times and climes. First, there was a 1990s *Misanthrope* at the Young Vic, complete with a Hollywood love-goddess and her coke-snorting retinue. Now we have Craig Raine's Nazification of Racine's *Andromaque*, starring a nobleman called Klaus-Maria von Orestes. What next, a *Cid* in which General Patton routs the Huns in the morning and marries Marilyn Monroe in the afternoon, as Corneille's busy Rodrigue effectively does?

Actually, Raine's *1953* is a lot more imaginatively arresting than that. The year of the title is not the one in which Elizabeth was crowned and I first saw *The Mousetrap*. There is no Queen, no play by Agatha Christie, not even any London. Churchill apparently died after a night spent quaffing champagne with Brendan Bracken, leaving our capital to the mercy of Mussolini's son, Vittorio, who razed it with bombs and finished the job with anthrax. He rules in Rome, as Hitler does in Berlin, though there is unfinished business on the Russian front.

You will not be surprised to learn that Raine advises us in a programme note to forget *Andromaque* and concentrate on his own dramatic poetry. Yet *1953* sticks almost as closely to Racine's plot as Martin Crimp's *Misanthrope* does to Molière. In the original, Orestes loves Hermione, who loves the butcher of Troy, Pyrrhus; and Pyrrhus loves Hector's widow Andromaque enough to refuse his fellow-Greeks demand that he kill her son, Astyanax. Their counterparts here are Count Orestes, a German princess called Ira, Vittorio Mussolini, and the Anglo-Jewess Annette LeSkye (Pooky Quesnel), whose son Angus is heir to the British throne. And all follow the paths and meet the ends of their prototypes.

It is fascinatingly fanciful stuff, yet I can see why Raine made the leap. As he also says in the programme that he wanted "to use my contemporary register" rather than to do a nice, safe translation of Racine. But that obviously demanded a world dominated by big, brutal figures as ready to sacrifice people's lives to their passions as Pyrrhus or Hector. Are these to be found in Major's England, Chirac's France or post-Papandreou Greece? Hardly. Saddam Hussein's Iraq? Too alien a proposition. But those post-Christian paradises, the 1,000-year Reich and Fascist Italy . . . well, maybe.

Even if you cannot buy that, you will be gripped by the strong, bold feelings on display in an anteroom that, given Vicki Mortimer's mix of pomposity and art-deco modishness, suggests the Savoy as it might have been redesigned by Albert Speer. Jason Isaacs's bullet-headed Vittorio — that "shaved baboon" — exudes curt command as he lingers over the billiard table or violently spars with a long-suffering confidant. Adam Kotz's Orestes somehow maintains decency and dignity in situations friendly to neither. Emma Fielding makes a chillingly arrogant, contemptuous Ira.

Yet all get, and grab, the opportunity to display the vulnerability you find not only in Racine but in Racine's source, Euripides's *Andromache*. Isaacs pleads as well as roars. Kotz unzips his upper lip, and Fielding whispers "what have I done?" as she contemplates the *crime passionnel* she did and did not request. Her swings of mood, from fiercely vindictive to baffled and despairing, are not only finely managed but embody the theme of *Andromaque* and *1953*: the demands of the glands override everything, from honour to duty to a Führer's orders.

In Racine, the characters watch these tussles with principled dismay. With Raine, the feeling is nearer to cynicism, a brusque urbanity that better suits both the contemporary world and his own talent. *1953* brims with sharp, hard images: bodies floating "like teabags", men "toxic with testosterone", a woman "used like a table napkin — I spent an hour on your lap". The writing is distinctive, the concept as original as anything in London, and Patrick Marber's production altogether to be recommended.

DONALD COOPER

Jason Isaacs as the son of Mussolini and Pooky Quesnel as the mother of the heir to the British throne in Craig Raine's clever and original *1953*

Thrilling sets for flat scenes

The Government Inspector
West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds

Pre-revolutionary provincial Russia is a dark, yawning shaft, its sheer walls and bare floor just planks of wood. Julian Crouch's beautiful set suggests warmth, worn homeliness and shelter from harsh weather, yet it looks bleakly abandoned, potentially cold as a vault.

Everything is quiet. Then comes an ominous creaking. It is a line of battered metal lamps being lowered. Their beams reveal the place to be a bit dusty. Amid growing industrial noises, a concealed door blows open and in rolls a great table.

Stacked on top are a crew of eccentrics, the petty crabbed officials of this backwater town. Dickensian yet East European, they flutter neurotically in tatty velvet coats, unpacking their committee chairs and rustling stacks of papers. Then all is still again. Suddenly a huge staircase comes smashing through the wall. "Good morning, gentlemen," says the dramatically entering Postmaster, almost as if nothing has happened. "I have some news for you."

Phelim McDermott's vision of Gogol's classic starts off with acutely timed contrasts that are frightening and funny. The news is, of course, that an unidentified government inspector with the clout of grand St Petersburg is about to hit town. He seems bound to rumble these corrupt municipal rulers. A full-blown comedy of mistaken identities follows. The penniless but not stupid travelling clerk, Ivan Khlestakov (tiny, porky Toby Jones), finds himself wined and dined and getting his pockets lined. Fleecing the locals and playing off the ladies, he is what they deserve but also a rotter himself.

This production proves good and bad. Visually it is stunning. McDermott's scene changes are *coups de théâtre*, choreographed swishly with cranky wit. Ivan's manservant, almost hallucinating from starvation in a pokey inn, makes his entrance in bed. The latter wheels around by itself, alarmingly pursued by the staircase. When Ivan eventually waves goodbye, we see him trundling off on a troika constructed from the Governor's best chairs. Ivan, preposterously shooting the moose head off the wall and getting his host's last carpet slung into the bargain, rides away with a fantastic variation on a pantomime horse.

Unfortunately, the set is superior to the cast. Most crucially, Jones lacks the theatrical stature to shoulder the lead. He is short on sexual thrust, for one thing. Elsewhere, superb touches include Julian Bleach's cadaverous Charity Commissioner, bowing and bending like a weasel in a tailcoat. However, scenes go flat. While the farce might escalate further, the hard realities of hunger and abuse could be played more seriously.

The seeds are there. The nasty portraits of VIPs, peering down from hatches, suggest a world of insanity and surveillance. Generally, the text still needs sharper scrutiny, but Adrian Mitchell's verbally lively adaptation is a delight, and the satire of hopeless schools and crumbling hospitals sounds alarmingly close to home.

KATE BASSETT

Shrunk, but not rapt

Down Among the Mini-Beasts
Polka, SW19

OUR children's theatres are commissioning work from writers with grown-up reputations, *Kate Bassett writes*. The Little Angel Theatre in North London boasts Ken Campbell and Gregory Motton, and Polka is currently employing Bryony Lavery, increasingly known for her adult writing. Aiming high is absolutely right. Unfortunately, *Down Among the Mini-Beasts*, intended for fives and over, is no great shakes.

This is the story of a girl called Millie. While her daddy is baking, she drinks a shrinking potion concocted by her granny in the garden shed. Both adults are commendably alternative role-models but are not including the child in their activities. So Millie downs the liquid, dwindles into an extremely weeny minor and vanishes into the vegetable patch, courtesy of a projected vortex and a set change to carrots and cauliflowers painted large. There, Millie finds herself having to make friends with insects who rarely busy themselves with feelings or give unless getting in return.

Lavery's play has potentially winning ingredients: a touch of Lewis Carroll; the environs of David Bellamy at his most microscopic. Millie bonds with a caterpillar and does a deal with a dung beetle. The programme notes also include ecological facts. The intention seems to be to mix altruism with survival instincts — so I was unsure why Millie, while learning not to squish ants, continued to duff up earthworms.

Ruby Evans, her hair in bunches, makes a convincing Millie, but is too bouncy. Amardeep Kaushal's caterpillar is sweetly entertaining, while the dung beetle (Terence Frisch) is a leathery Victorian dustman and anti-litterbug. But the design lacks sophistication and Lavery's language, in spite of alliterative playfulness, sounds simplistic. The best-loved authors often write over children's heads — and thus stimulate growth.

CONCERTS: Rachmaninov played by rote and Berlioz with brio, but Amanda Roocroft tackles too much, too soon

The pity and the passion

Philharmonia/Yu
LPO/Norrington
Festival Hall

Times are hard when an all-Rachmaninov programme by the **Philharmonia Orchestra**, including the composer's most popular symphony (No 2 in E Minor), draws only a 28 per cent audience at the Festival Hall. I could not honestly say, however, that the stayaways missed anything very special.

The conductor was the young Korean Djong Victorin Yu, whose biography proclaims him "a former protégé of Evgeny Mravinsky", and thus heir to the tradition of the "St Petersburg school" of conducting. Little of this was evident in an account of the Second Symphony that went through the motions but remained earthbound.

The first movement seemed dogged and determined rather than passionate. Textural detail was for the most part clearly articulated and dynamic levels rose and fell as prescribed in the score, yet without registering more than a quiver on the emotional barometer. The big C Major tune of the Scherzo was coloured with a touch of portamento, but it sounded artificially applied and was certainly no substitute for the broad, impassioned sweep that characterises great Rachmaninov conducting.

Two novelties were offered in the first half: the cantata *Spring*, which dates from the same period as the celebrated Second Piano Concerto, and Three Russian Songs for chorus, the last a merry little tale of wife-beating. The vocalists were the dependable Philharmonia Chorus, joined in the cantata by the aptly dark-hued Russian bass, Anatoli Safiulin.

Passion was not in short supply for Roger Norrington's Valentine's Night presentation of Berlioz's symphony *Romeo et Juliette*. With the **London Philharmonic** ranged to yield some novel antiphonal effects, and three choirs adding to the proceedings, it was a characteristically full-blooded, sometimes hair-raising, onslaught on Berlioz's treatment of the romantic tragedy.

The thunderous drum roll that ended the first of the seven movements gave chilling notice of the grief to come. It drew to a close a most beautifully delivered movement. Sarah Walker evoked the "unforgettable first raptures" and the "vale of tears" with her incomparably expressive mezzo. John Mark Ainsley made a stylish but brief appearance as the tenor soloist, and the semi-chorus was the most professional, and best groomed, of the three choral ensembles: the Schutz Choir of London.

If the offstage partygoers in the Love Scene were a touch too raucous, it hardly diminished the melting harmonies and veiled sonorities of the strings in that evocative movement. Anything in the score that smacked of the idiosyncratic or the theatrical was seized on by Norrington and played for all it was worth.

To the Queen Mab Scherzo he brought humour as well needlepoint delicacy, with some truly ethereal harmonics in the middle section. Though a little stretched at the top and bottom of his compass, Miguel Angel Zapater commanded both sympathy and respect as Friar Laurence. With the orchestra, London Philharmonic Choir and Brighton Festival Chorus all at full throttle, the final moments of the work were thrilling.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Lost for words

Amanda Roocroft
Wigmore Hall

Interest in Tuesday's recital by Amanda Roocroft, the soprano's first London appearance since the birth of her baby, can only have been increased by the announcement that she has withdrawn from singing Arabella at Covent Garden next month.

Though many singers find their vocal prowess increased by childbirth, Roocroft's determination to tackle so soon such a taxing role for the first time had seemed a little reckless, and her decision is undoubtedly a wise one (Cheryl Studer will replace her at five of the six performances).

But few operatic roles are as taxing as recital work, and Roocroft did not skimp at the Wigmore Hall — the first half lasted more than 50 minutes. She showed no sign of fatigue, but alas brought little musical interest to her varied programme. It was dispiriting to find her old weaknesses — poor diction and little individuality — highlighted now by the loss of the creamy tone that had been her strong suit.

Opening with Haydn's *Scena di Berenice*, Roocroft sang with urgent intensity but would have communicated the varied emotions better in less plummy Italian. Her German is stronger, but her selection of Schubert *Lieder* was also generalised and uninvolving, though *Gretchen am Spinnrade* was an exception.

Strauss appears to suit Roocroft well, and she was happier in the quiet optimism of *Morgen* and the light, high-lying lines of *Ständchen*. Even so, the humour of *Hat gesagt* seemed to come more from her facial expressions than voice.

She conjured up an appropriately earthy tone for the *Seven Spanish Popular Songs* by Falla, but then smoothed them out with vocalise-like projection. The ear was drawn to the more interesting contributions of the pianist, Malcolm Martineau. Roocroft had her moments in Britten's *On this Island*, articulating a good, smooth line in *Now the leaves are falling fast*, though she lacked the cabaret accents for *As it is, plenty*. With few of Auden's lines coming across, though, her account sounded incomplete.

JOHN ALLISON

Electric music for mind and body

JAZZ

Baseline
The Rhythmic, N1

BILLED as John Abercrombie's Baseline, but introduced as Hein van der Geyn's ditto, the trio comprising these two — guitarist and bassist respectively — and drummer Joe LaBarbera proved to be a model democracy. Purveying two sets of elegant, sophisticated but punchy chamber jazz, the three men interacted with a delicate spontaneity epitomised by the music produced in the various trios formed over the years by LaBarbera's most celebrated former employer, the late pianist Bill Evans.

Himself no stranger to trio settings — his Gateway Trio with Dave Holland and Jack DeJohnette is still operating, 20 years after making its first recording — Abercrombie is justly celebrated for helping define and subsequently promulgate the musical values espoused by ECM, the company for which he has recorded for the past 22 years. These include a scrupulous attention to detail and nuance, an ability to imbue superficially cerebral music with almost romantic lyricism, and the idea that jazz of truly lasting value can be produced by concentrating as much on the music's texture and overall structure as on more "jazzy" characteristics such as fierce swing and unbridled exuberance.

That these values were shared by both LaBarbera and Van der Geyn was obvious as soon as the trio eased themselves gently into their opener, the standard *Beautiful Love*. Behind the electric guitarist's tastefully spun lines and softly chiming chords, the Dutch bassist was considered and stately in his accompanying role, eloquent and unabashedly tuneful in his solos, the full-bodied gravity of his sound in no way compromising its lithe propulsiveness.

LaBarbera, unmatched this side of fellow Evans alumnus Paul Motian for his ability to impart discreet but powerful momentum to music at the slowest of tempos, pattered intelligently round his kit, constantly seeking the subtle side-drum embellishment or the precise shade of cymbal sound that would perfectly complement the others' playing.

Originals by Van der Geyn and Abercrombie followed, the ballads eliciting exquisitely constructed solos from the latter which drew heavily on his trademark spangly guitar sound. But it was the second set's opener, Sonny Rollins's jazz-blues *Sonnymoon for Two*, that really allowed the trio as a whole, and Abercrombie in particular, to open up.

The New York-born guitarist has always been notable for his ability to switch seamlessly between the understated jazz of the likes of Wes Montgomery or Jim Hall and the blistering axe-hero electronic noise associated with rock music, and he spent the rest of the evening revelling in both aspects of his prodigious talent. Van der Geyn and LaBarbera were with him every step of the way.

CHRIS PARKER

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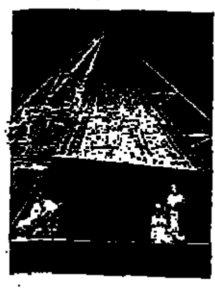

■ OPERA

An oddity in The Netherlands, but a thrilling Mussorgsky staging opens in Belgium

■ CHOICE 1

The man is back: Eric Clapton starts his annual London residency

VENUE: From Sunday at the Albert Hall

THE TIMES ARTS

■ CHOICE 2

Welsh National Opera stages Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress*

VENUE: Opens tomorrow, New Theatre, Cardiff

■ CHOICE 3

It's European premiere night for Sondheim's *Passion*

VENUE: Opens tomorrow, Theatre Royal, Plymouth

OPERA: **Rodney Milnes** is ravished by *Khovanshchina* in Brussels, but let down in Amsterdam

A cross-Channel bargain at any price

Since it is now cheaper, thanks to current arts-funding policy, to go to the opera in Brussels and Paris than to Covent Garden, reports from across the Channel should perhaps be as frequent as those from Bow Street. Top price in Brussels is £50 (add a pound or two for Paris), Eurostar deals come in at less than £60, and there are regular matinees. Funny old world.

But it would be worth Covent Garden prices and more to catch the new production of **Khovanshchina** in Brussels, running until tomorrow: it is in every respect outstanding. If an opera company's strength is to be judged by the quality of its orchestra and chorus, then the Monnaie under Bernard Foccroulle is in the safest of hands: it is a long time since I have heard such full-toned, superbly disciplined playing and singing (the chorus-master is Werner Nitzer) as that under Paul Daniel last week.

The Shostakovich orchestration is used, but with a new, contemplative ending (devised by J. David Jackson) probably closer to Mussorgsky's intentions. The composer's scribbled notes were also cited to justify some nips and tucks in a notoriously sprawling score. The results were unexceptionable save to the most rabid purist: what emerged was taut, constantly gripping drama quite faultlessly paced by Daniel.

Power politics and intrigue do not change with the centuries, and Stein Winge's production is in non-specific contemporary dress and throws up visual references for the audience to juggle with to its heart's content. There is a vague look of the Red Army to Ivan Khovansky and the Streltsy; Golitsyn wears blazer and flannels; Shaklovity is attended by spooks in raincoats and trilbies, increasing in number as he tightens his grip on power. Chilling. Winge's direction is quiet, concentrated and as disciplined as the music.

The international cast is as strong as could be imagined: Willard White singing old Khovansky even more expressively than at the Coliseum last season; Elena Zaremba warm and properly voluptuous as the mysterious Marfa; Anatoly Kotscherga granite-toned and unsettlingly fanatical as Dossifey; Jacque Trussel a real smoothie-chops Golitsyn; Ronnie Johansen a horribly creepy Shaklovity; Vladimir Bogachov an authentically ringing Andrey Khovansky. All follow Daniel's lead in emphasising the lyrical beauty of the music as well as its more obvious dramatic power. An unforgettable evening.

Chorus of approval: the stunning production of *Khovanshchina* in Brussels is "in every respect outstanding"

The combination of a top price of £40 and judicious scanning of bucket-shops also makes Amsterdam an attractive prospect, but a pause for reflection is recommended before rushing off to the Netherlands Opera's current revival of **Die Frau ohne Schatten**. Harry Kupfer's desperately prosaic production is played out on Wilfried Werz's metallic, clattery skeletal pyramid. Extraneous action, as so often in Kupfer, regularly distracts attention from the music; Hofmannsthal's and Strauss's poetic vision is given little chance to weave its spell.

There are a few musical compensations. Jane Henschel and Thomas Moser sing the Nurse and the Emperor as well as anyone in living or recorded memory, and Ellen Shade is a likeable, involved Empress. Gabriele Schnaut was singing the Dyer's Wife for the first time; she has the notes and the stamina, but I find her slightly set-in-concrete tone and phrasing too unyielding. Hartmut Haenchen is the perfectly capable conductor but his workaday direction may have accounted for the fine Dutch baritone John Bröcheler (Barak) sounding at less than his best. And an indifferent *Frau* makes for a very, very long evening.

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

MUSIN'S DEBUT The legendary Russian conductor Ilya Musin makes his London debut at the grand age of 92. Tomorrow's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra programme features Mozart, Prokofiev and Rimsky-Korsakov.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Sat, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

ERIC CLAPTON As expected, it is returns only for Clapton's annual Albert Hall residency: 12 nights, through to next month. Sheer delight.
Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Sun. Then Feb 20, 22-24, 26-28, Mar 1-3 Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM The ever-enterprising **Birmingham Contemporary Music Group** gives a programme of music by Oliver Knussen, Judith Weir, Jonathan Harvey, Boulez and Stravinsky, plus nothing less than an "introduction to the world" tonight. Sally Beamish's new piece, *A Book of Seasons*, is dedicated to her new-born daughter.
Adrian Boult Hall, Paradise Place (0121-605 6666). Tonight, 7.30pm Ⓢ

PLYMOUTH: Sondheim's Tony award-winning musical **Passion** gets its European premiere tomorrow. Jeremy Sams directs Michael Ball as a young soldier intrigued by his colonel's cousin (Maria Friedman). Book by James Lapine.
Theatre Royal (01752 267222). Sat, 4pm and 8pm. Until Feb 24 Ⓢ

CARDIFF: Mark Wigglesworth and a starry cast open a new **Welsh National Opera** season with Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*. Matthew Warchus directs the searing tale of love, wealth and deception in 18th-century England, with Paul Nilon, Alwyn Mellor, Jonathan Best and Bryn Terfel.
New, Park Place (01222 878889). Tomorrow, 7.15pm. Ⓢ

LONDON GALLERIES

Leighton House: At Home with Lord Leighton (0171-602 3316) . . . **Matthiesen Gallery**: Leighton and his Sculptural Legacy: 1875-1930 (0171-930 4215) . . . **National Gallery**: At Home with Constable's Cornfield (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery**: Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy**: Frederic Leighton (0171-439 7438) . . . **Tate**: Cézanne (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A**: The Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

□ **THE CHANGING ROOM**: David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. Third in the season of Royal Court Classics.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

□ **LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS** Helen McCrory, Joseph Fiennes, Rupert Graves in Simon Callow's disappointing and long (4 and a half hours) version of the film.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Feb 22, 7.15pm; mats Sat and Thurs, 2pm. Ⓢ

◪ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND**: Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Penny Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

◪ **MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN**: Diana Rigg sturdily moving in title role of Brecht's epic denunciation of war. Jonathan Kent directs a new version by David Hare.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Wed, 7.15pm, mat Sat, Wed, 2pm. In rep Ⓢ

◪ **SKYLIGHT** Michael Gambon and Lia Williams, with Daniel Betts, in David Hare's dramatization of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers. Richard Eyre directs this National theatre transfer.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Now previewing, 8pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Feb 20.

■ **SWEET PANIC** Saskia Reeves plays a troubled mother stalking a child psychologist (Harriet Walter) in Stephen Poliakoff's play about the strains of life in today's London.
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Ⓢ

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

BED OF ROSES (PG): Wilting, whimsical romance set in a fairy-tale New York, with Mary Stuart Masterson and Christian Slater. Director, Michael Goldenberg.
Plaza Ⓢ (0171-437 1234)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG). Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams. Director, Joe Johnston.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

OTHELLO (12): Laurence Fishburne as the jealous Moor, Kenneth Branagh as the scheming Iago. Oliver Parker's lively version for general audiences.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

ULYSSES' GAZE (PG). Portentous epic with striking moments from Greek master Theo Angelopoulos, with Harvey Keitel as a film-maker journeying through the Balkans.
Lumiere (0171-836 0691) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

◆ **HEAT** (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JOHNNY MNEMONIC** (15). The Yakuza want the contents of Keanu Reeves's head. Futuristic folly from cyberpunk author William Gibson.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574)

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Mon 7.00 (First Night) SEMELE
The Royal Ballet
Tomor 7.30 Ashton's RHAPSODY/NEW HART BALLET/NEW PAGE PAS DE DEUX/ MacMillan's THE INVITATION
Tue, Thur (Last Night) 7.30 THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

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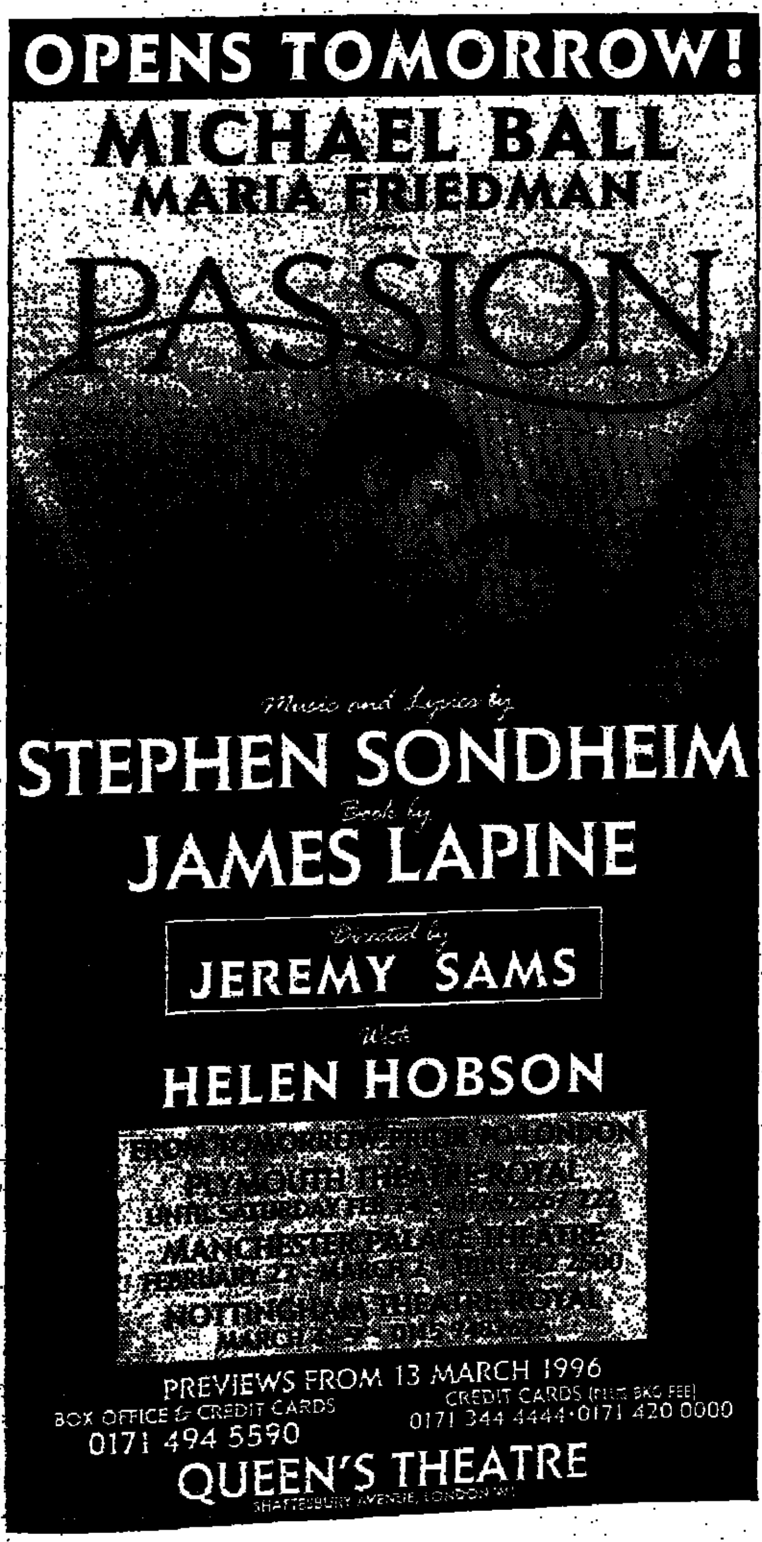

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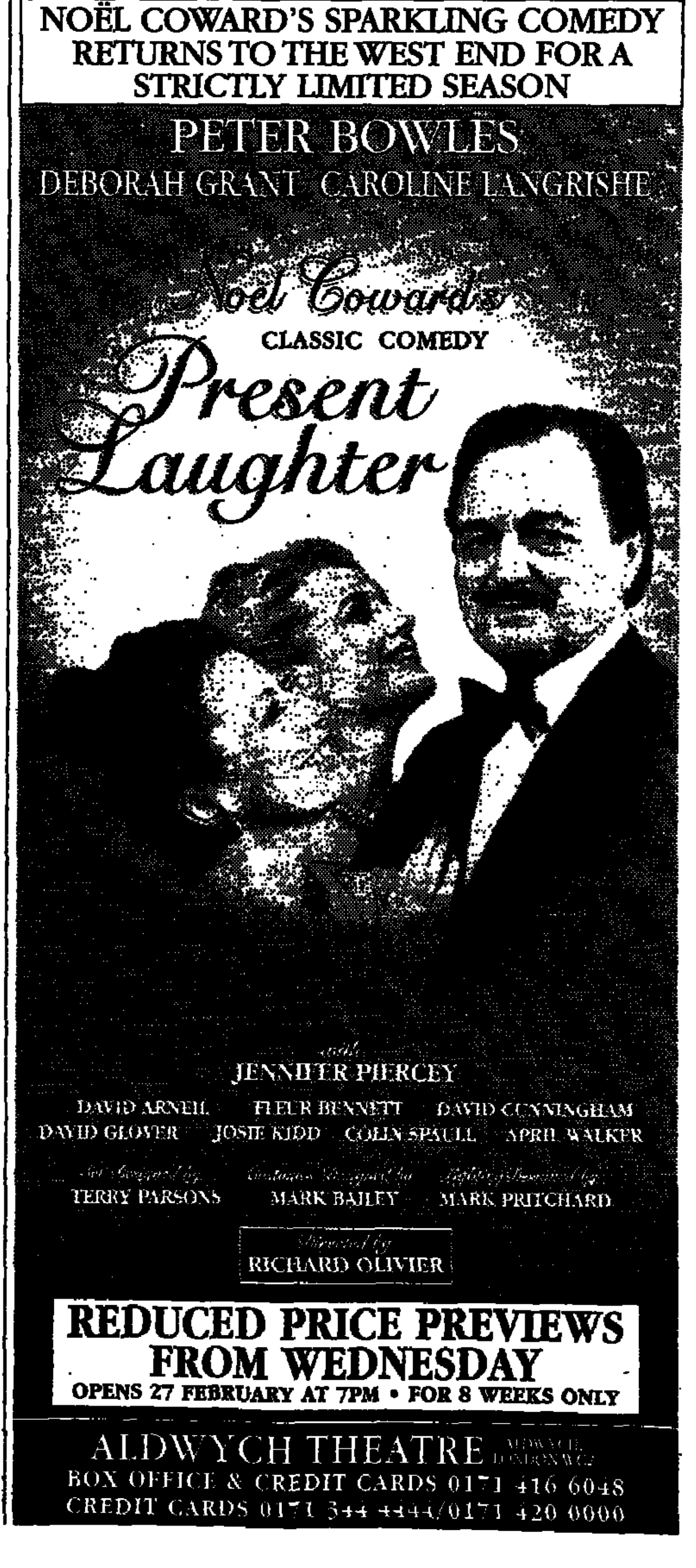

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هكذا من الاصل

■ POP 1

'I enjoy zero respect within the music industry,' says that gifted Scot, Edwyn Collins

■ POP 2

Lou Reed is back with *Set The Twilight Reeling*, a generally upbeat new solo album

■ POP 3

. . . while Maria McKee attempts, with mixed results, to play the wild child on *Life is Sweet*

■ POP 4

. . . and Buffy Sainte-Marie talks about mixing protest songs with a little digital art

Is snow news good news?

LOCAL radio is the fastest growing medium in Britain, a fact which says much about the perceived gap between politicians and people. The former are moving towards ever-greater centralisation and ever-larger political units, while the latter increasingly want units they can handle.

At least, that is the received wisdom. I, however, believe the medium has expanded not as a demonstration of the desire to have local issues locally decided, but as a compensation for the fact that they are not.

Consider the case of Radio Smalltown, to give the medium a generic title, and the recent snows. Bad weather is good news for local radio: listening figures rise because people know the best information about the advisibility of a trip from A to B will come out of the radio.

Once upon a time, the

RADIO

dominant suppliers of information to Radio Smalltown in such circumstances would have been local councils and the motoring organisations. Now, the listener calls the radio station about a blocked road and the radio station relays that information. Formal disseminators, such as councils, are bypassed.

In many parts of Britain, the percentage of the population listening to local radio is significantly larger than the percentage of electors who vote in local council elections. Radio Smalltown gets things done. Radio Smalltown influences issues. Stations in Berkshire, for example, have a significant role in the Newbury bypass debate.

None of which need be a bad thing in itself. But we may be witnessing a sea change in the democratic process. Whereas an election is a simultaneous expression of the mass will, the use of Radio Smalltown is a dripfeed process with no evidence that it is representative of more than a limited lobby which enjoys the sound of its voice. No one on the business end of local radio can want this change to happen. But only the listeners can prevent it.

PETER BARNARD

Arch-outsider Edwyn Collins is a hit at last. **David Sinclair** finds him unrepentant

Don't call me popular

One should not be fooled by the gentle, friendly manner or the ready laugh. Edwyn Collins is a man who takes his outsider status seriously. Invited to come up with a snappy line about himself to include in the programme for next Monday's Brit Awards, the Scottish singer and songwriter with the proudest quiff in pop settled on: "Every pariah dog has its day."

"I enjoy zero respect within the music industry," he says, affably. This despite having been nominated in two categories of this year's instalment of the British industry's annual backslapping gala: Best British Solo Artist and Best British Single (for *A Girl Like You*).

"I've always been very forthright and — not wishing to sound too paranoid about it — I know that over the years I've made many enemies in high places," Collins says. Incredibly, given the international success of *A Girl Like You* and its parent album, *Gorgeous George*, both released on the tiny independent label Setanta, and licensed to a bewildering variety of independent labels throughout the world, Collins says that there have been no offers of lucrative contracts from the major record companies. "The only person who's invited my manager to come round for a meeting is Richard Branson."

But Collins is in no hurry to come in from the cold. "If these Brit nominations are some kind of belated acknowledgment of my contribution, then all I can do is repeat the old Groucho Marx maxim that I wouldn't wish to belong to any club that would have me as a member."

Born in Edinburgh in 1959, Collins had his first shot at stardom in Orange Juice, the Glaswegian group that straddled the divide between late-1970s punk and the New Romantic movement of the early 1980s without ever nailing its colours to either mast. They enjoyed their biggest hit with the single *Rip It Up*, which peaked at No 8 in 1983, but eventually foundered in 1985, due to various clashes of personalities. "Groups spend so much time bickering among themselves and thinking up put-downs, which is what we used to do."

After a long spell in the wilderness, during which he released two solo albums — *Hope and Despair* (1989) and *Hellbent on Compromise* (1990) — and produced records for other acts including Vic Godard, A House and Saint Etienne, Collins has enjoyed an unlikely renaissance, thanks to *A Girl Like You*. Recorded on a shoestring budget and released in September 1994, the song initially made a brief foray into the Top 50. However, various radio stations, notably Radio 1 and BBC Greater London Radio, remained entranced by the track's timeless combination of beat, soul and pop and kept playing it long after it had dropped out of the chart.

Meanwhile, it became a No 1 hit in Belgium, and then spread throughout the Continent, climbing the charts in France and Germany. Re-promoted in Britain last summer, it reached No 4. It has since charted in America, Australia and Japan and worldwide sales now stand at about two million copies. At the same time, *Gorgeous George* has sold more than 800,000 copies (*Hellbent On Compromise* sold 23,000).

Apart from bankrolling the Setanta label for the forseeable future, *A Girl Like You* has enabled Collins to build his own dream recording studio. Tucked away in a North London mews, it is a functional-looking building with a faulty door-buzzer and a brand new burglar alarm that nobody seems quite sure how to operate.

The control room is a bizarre hotchpotch of equipment that looks as if it has simply sprouted up around a Neve mixing desk that most people would regard as an antique. To one side there is a massive tangle of wires customised from an old telephone exchange. Ancient guitars are slung across chairs. An oil lamp sits on top of the console. Collins proudly points out a gizmo with four big knobs on it that, he says, the late Joe Meek used to produce the sound of the Tornados, the instrumental group whose *Telstar* was a transatlantic No 1 in 1962.

Half tunesmith, half technophile, Collins is fascinated by the production of modern music as much as the music itself. "I don't agree with the idea that the test of a really good song is whether you can sit down with an acoustic guitar and sing it and it'll sound great. Sound is not more important than songwriting, but a good song can be ruined by a bad or inappropriate production.

But he insists he is not part of rock's Luddite tendency, represented most prominently in recent times by Lenny Kravitz. "I installed the Neve desk because it's the best. It's not built any more because of financial constraints, not because the new desks are any better. But I'm just as fascinated with sampling technology. I'm simply trying to take the best from each era. I'm as excited by the production technique of Phil Spector as I am by [rap producer] Dr Dre."

With a new single, *Keep on Burning*, due for release on the day of the Brits, Collins has no plans to relinquish his post as one of pop's arch mavericks. A song that pours gentle scorn on what he sees as the retro and jingoistic overtones of the Britpop revolution — "It's the same old story, England's glory/Claiming back the Union Jack" — *Burning* comes swathed in typically strange layers of production echo and lyrical irony.

"It's hard to be operating for 15 years without getting a bit ironic," Collins says. "I'm often reminded of the Frank Zappa album *Does Humor Belong In Music?* I take humour very seriously."

● *The single* Keep on Burning *is released by Setanta on Monday*

● *Edwyn Collins is the special guest on Pulp's British tour, starting at Brighton Centre on Tuesday, continuing at Cardiff, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Humberside, Sheffield and ending at Wembley Arena on Mar 1*

DENZIL McNEELANCE

In from the cold and up for a couple of Brits: life's looking good for Edwyn Collins since *A Girl Like You*

Return of the native

Paul Sexton on a protest singer in tune with the vibes of her ancestors and her Apple Mac

The contrast is unlikely. Buffy Sainte-Marie, born on a reservation in Saskatchewan, Canada, celebrated champion of Native American heritage, seasoned troubadour of history-laden protest songs . . . and Macintosh-friendly digital painter.

Buffy's *Up Where We Belong* album is a collection of new versions of the songs that made her name. As well as featuring the award-winning title track, familiar from the film *An Officer and a Gentleman*, it takes us back to the early 1970s when she had a Top Ten hit with *Soldier Blue* and Elvis Presley recorded her melancholy *Until It's Time For You To Go*. But the album is not the only fruit of her creativity. "I have lots of paintings on display in museums and galleries in Canada," she says proudly. "They're big — nine feet tall — all digital, all done over a period of eleven years since I got my first Macintosh."

> ‘Refusing to use a computer is like refusing to use a tape recorder’

The Sainte-Marie computer is rarely dormant, since it also provides the palette for her recordings. She sees no incongruity in songs steeped in indigenous tradition such as *Universal Soldier* and *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* undergoing a digital revival. "That's like a singer saying they won't use a tape recorder because it comes from the world of technology," she says. "As children, we don't distinguish whether we're playing with colour or playing with sound."

Sainte-Marie, 55 next week, returned to recording in 1991 after leaving it in the 1970s to raise her son — and to add another string to her overloaded bow as a *Sesame Street* presenter. Her comeback record, *Coincidence and Likely Stories*, showed that her passion as a defender of the disadvantaged was undimmed.

Now a teacher of both native studies and digital art, she decided to re-record her old songs because, she says, "I still feel them in the same way but I sing better now. When I was just a kid out of college, I couldn't sing my way out of a hat."

Until It's Time For You to Go was a worldwide hit and is her most-recorded song. Besides Elvis, it has been interpreted by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra, Hildegarde Neff and Vera Lynn, among others, and translated into many languages.

Up Where We Belong, which won her a Grammy and an Oscar in 1983, becomes an attractively sparse love song in the hands of its author. "There was no way I could top the Joe Cocker/Jennifer Warnes record, so I did the songwriter's version," she says. "There was no other way to do it, really."

Sainte-Marie's next appearance at an awards ceremony will be as a presenter at the Junos, the Canadian record industry honours, in Ontario next month.

"Last year they honoured me by inducting me into the Juno Hall of Fame," she says proudly.

"Most professional evenings like that are a drag. I almost went to sleep at the Academy Awards. But the Junos is a great evening of music. Canadian talent is so diverse."

● Up Where We Belong *is released by EMI on Feb 26*

Digital direction: Sainte-Marie is happy to use high-tech resources

MARIA McKEE
Life Is Sweet
The New Album
Released 12th February
CD and Cassette

Well, hello, merry Lou, goodbye art

NEW ALBUMS: An upbeat Lou Reed returns to solo duties; plus high-grade hardcore from Dave Clarke

LOU REED
Set the Twilight Reeling
(Warner Bros 9362-46159)

RETURNING to active duty as if the ill-fated Velvet Underground reunion of 1993 had never happened, Lou Reed picks up the thread of his solo career without missing a beat on *Set the Twilight Reeling*.

Thankfully, he has pulled himself out of the depression and despair that inspired his previous album, *Magic and Loss*. Instead, several songs revisit the scene of his greatest triumph, the *New York* album of 1989, although the scathing, world-weary tone of that classic is replaced here by a more upbeat mood.

"I'm a New York City man/Blink your eyes and I'll be gone," he warns mischievously on *NYC Man*, using his deadpan drawl to sketch only the faintest outline of a tune, while delegating the detailed work to an untypically elaborate horn-section arrangement.

Reed's greatest strength remains his uncanny ability to conjure a song from the simplest of building blocks. In *HookyWooky*, he paints a rooftop picture of the city — "Looking at the chemical sky/All purple, blue and oranges/Some pigeons flying by" — over a childishly simple, chugging riff.

The skin-and-bones production of numbers ranging from the jokey rocker *Egg Cream* to the earnest pseudo-soul of *Hang on to your Emotions* further disguises the craft that goes into Reed's work, and even the more ambitious, sub-Hendrix pyrotechnics of *Rip Tide* tend to sound as if they have been rather casually knocked out.

He will need to make a more conspicuous effort if he is ever to produce another record as outstanding as *New York*, but this is fine for now.

DAVE CLARKE
Archive One
(Deconstruction/BMG 74321 32067)

BESIDES elevating the DJ/producer from an ancillary role to that of performer in his own right, the most intriguing effect of computerised studio technology is the way in which it has enabled the most sophisticated operators to break music down into its most primitive components.

Dave Clarke knows this better than most. A DJ from Brighton working in a field roughly similar to that of hardcore techno acts such as Moby and the Chemical Brothers, Clarke has fashioned *Archive One*, a monumental debut propelled almost entirely by stark, minimalist percussion loops, laced with forbidding sound effects and disorientating shards of noise.

Apart from the gothic, orchestral-synth introduction *Rhapsody in Red*, only one track, *Miles Away*, could be said to boast a tune, and even that soon withers away from lack of harmonic nourishment. More typical is the ingeniously interlinked percussion and syncopated handclaps of *Tale of Two Cities* or the seismic overload of *Storm*, with its bass drum banging like a fist on a door while a synth simulates the sound of a swarm of bees. Elsewhere, odd snippets of speech contribute to the neurotic tension of *No One's Driving* — "That's the way the government planned it/Raped and pillaged every one on the planet".

Undoubtedly an acquired taste, the album is nevertheless stunning; a race into the future that is likely to induce whiplash among the unwary.

MARIA McKEE
Life is Sweet
(Geffen GED 24819)

IN A career dogged by a series of identity crises, Maria McKee has finally come out as a bit of a wild child, now that Courtney, Tori and all the others have made it fashionable. Unfortunately, as with her previous attempts to play the roles of roots-rocker and sensitive singer-songwriter, *Life is Sweet*, although performed to a high standard, does not quite ring true. A spirited and sometimes jarring combination of loud guitar — played by McKee in a brash, angular style consciously influenced by the late Mick Ronson — and orchestral arrangements; songs such as *Scarlover* and *I'm Not Listening* teeter on the brink of hysteria. But scratch the surface drama and there is a lack of substance at the core.

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Trainspotting
(EMI Premier 37190)

NATURALLY, no film that plumbs unspeakable depths of drug-induced depravity would be complete without a brilliant pop soundtrack — and here it is. It boasts previously unreleased tracks by Pulp, Leftfield, Primal Scream, Sleeper and Damon Albarn along with more familiar delicacies by New Order (*Temptation*), Elastica (*2:1*) and Blur (*Sing*) and a handful of standards including Lou Reed's *Perfect Day* and Iggy Pop's *Lust for Life*.

Ironic, really, that with one or two exceptions (Primal Scream's instrumental title track is a bit murky), it should turn out to be such a generally cheerful collection of songs.

DAVID SINCLAIR

[illegible]

1	Expecting to Fly	Bluetones (Superior Quality)
2	(What's the Story) Morning Glory?	Oasis (Creation)
3	Don't Stop	Status Quo (Polygram TV)
4	Bizarre Fruit I & II	M People (Deconstruction)
5	Jagged Little Pill	Alanis Morissette (Maverick)
6	The Bends	Radiohead (Parlophone)
7	Different Class	Pulp (Island)
8	The Boy With the X-Ray Eyes	Babylon Zoo (EMI)
9	Welcome to the Neighbourhood	Meat Loaf (Virgin)
10	Life	Simply Red (East West)

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● ***Caitlin Moran is on holiday***

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EDUCATION

TIM BISHOP

Labour MP Austin Mitchell: "I was an obnoxious little swot"

Austin Mitchell, the graduate of Suez

In the first of a series on celebrities and their universities,

Jonathan Sale hears a story of dramatic political conversion

Some say that it was the University of Life which made them what they are. You could say that Austin Mitchell is a graduate of the University of Suez.

Technically he is a graduate with a BA and MA from Manchester University (allowed in "by mistake") and Oxford (where he gained his PhD after getting in "through the back door"). But it was the wave of protest over the disastrous invasion of 1956 which ultimately got him where he is, which is Labour MP for Great Grimsby and the only person in television's *Annie's Bar* with a witty line.

"I was a perennial student," he says, "but I drifted into university. I went to Bingley Grammar School, West Yorkshire. Most of my contemporaries went into the wool trade and later became unemployed when it contracted.

"At 15 I was turned down for a job at Baildon Combing, so I stayed on at school.

"I did quite well at examinations and got a state scholarship. No one from our school had gone to Oxford or Cambridge but the headmaster said: "You might try Oxford; go to the library and get the university calendar out." I looked at the prospectus but it was all about colleges and I didn't understand a word, so in 1952 I went to Manchester University. They accepted me by mistake." Accidentally allowed in without the obligatory Latin O level, he had to take it during his first year.

"I liked Manchester. It was utilitarian, homely (that is, they were like me) and serious (but not intellectual). I was in a hall of residence, Montgomery House. It was a very religious place, a YMCA. We thought ourselves riotous but I don't remember getting drunk. I missed out on the so-called character-building aspects of university life. I used to go rather pathetically to Saturday night hops where they had the Northern Dance Orchestra, and to rag balls. If there was a uniform, it was corduroy and Harris tweed.

"I was an obnoxious little swot," he declares. "I wanted to go on and become an academic." After a year of French he switched to the three-year history degree, followed by a one-year MA. Oddly enough, the future television presenter and ebullient MP kept his head down. He was no student revolutionary. He came from a Tory working-class family, became a Liberal and did not join the Labour Party until his final year. He spent the summer of 1956 working — and arguing — in a Co-op biscuit factory with Paul Rose, an enthusiastic Marxist who later became a Labour MP.

"It was a late conversion," he says. It was vastly strengthened by the Conservative Government's "monstrous" decision to invade Egypt's canal zone. "Suez was the most spectacular event of the Fifties. It was very exciting for a generation of undergraduates which hadn't been in the war. Suddenly there was protest in the streets."

He did end up in Oxford, at Jesus, after all. "Through the back door," he says, although being a PhD student sounds very much like a front-door entry.

He followed his history supervisor, Gaitskell biographer Phillip Williams, to Nuffield College, a marvellous swapshop of ideas presided over by David Butler, the psephologist, who was then in his prime.

"Oxford was exotically privileged and I reacted adversely. I felt like the Porterhouse Blue character who shoves inflated contraceptives up the chimney." One of his undergraduate contemporaries was whipped out of his history degree course to "inherit" his daddy's safe seat in Parliament. What with lecturing and working in television, Austin Mitchell himself took rather longer to make it to Annie's Bar and, indeed, *Annie's Bar*.

Does a Jewish education work?

Rabbi Julia Neuberger reflects on the implications of a startling report into the attitudes of British Jewry

NEIL TURNER/INSIGHT

The most startling conclusion is that Jewish schooling has little bearing on whether Jews associate with their community in later life

A comprehensive survey of the social and political attitudes of the British Jewish community was published yesterday to launch the Institute for Jewish Policy Research. It makes fascinating reading.

One of the findings in particular should bring joy to *The Times*'s Editor and writers. *The Times* comes out as the broadsheet paper most widely read by the Jewish community — 15 per cent of the sample read it.

The research also illustrates a growing sector of British Jews who feel firmly and securely rooted in British society, who do not regard themselves as living in "exile" of any kind, do not believe Jews are more tolerant than anyone else, nor that Jews behave in such a way as to cause hostility to be directed towards them.

The survey shows that the rate of male intermarriage with non-Jewish women is as high as 44 per cent in the crucial younger ages (under 40). And it reveals that Jews are more likely to identify with the Jewish community through their attachment to religious ritual than through their religious faith.

These figures, the result of the largest survey of self-identifying Jews ever carried out in this country, will force the leaders of the Jewish community to look again at how to strengthen that community. Though aware of the intermarriage rate, we have not welcomed non-Jewish spouses. Rather, we have tended to exclude the Jewish-born partner of a mixed marriage, thus losing yet another family.

Rabbi Julia Neuberger

Though we have suspected that people identify with ritual rather than with faith, we have not thought creatively about how to build on this to strengthen our community. Our synagogues in particular have been slow to widen the range of services they provide. Hence it should be no surprise that one in three people identifying themselves as Jewish is not a member of a synagogue at all, even though that was how one associated with the community in the past.

But the most startling conclusion of all is that the great nostrum against assimilation valued by all today's community leaders, Jewish schooling (and specifically Jewish day-school education), makes very little difference to whether Jews associate with the community in later life. It is family background, the social and religious dynamics of the family, that are the determinants of Jewish life choices.

This is important. The Jewish community now has one in six children in Jewish day-school education. The argument has been that this will halt the decline of the community. Even my own non-orthodox community has followed this path with Akiva School, and another is set to follow. But the evidence is not there. It is family that matters, not Jewish schooling. Added to that, there are moral arguments against sectarian education.

Children who will grow up in a multi-faith community should learn to live together, and they can only learn that by being at school together. That does not mean that religious education should be excluded from schools, as Americans have it. Religion is too important a part of life to be excluded from schools, and some understanding of it should be part of general education. But religious education should be about religions, rather than indoctrination in any one religion.

The 1988 Education Act was wrong in making religious education and assemblies broadly Christian. Children should be encouraged to explore their own religions, and hear about other people's.

It is parents who should do the religious indoctrination. The Institute for Jewish Policy Research suggests that schools are ineffective in building up a sense of religious identity and religious commitment. The Jewish experience suggests that it is parents and the wider family, rather than the schools, who can succeed in doing this.

We ought therefore to re-examine separatist education tendencies, and think more about how families can best inculcate religious loyalties and values, instead of leaving the task to the schools. Indeed, some evidence suggests that sectarian education is actively harmful. It can lead to sectarian tensions, or at least extend their life, as Northern Ireland has shown. The Jewish experience is not unique. Roman Catholic education in Britain and America has failed to increase association with Catholicism. People "lapse", irrespective of their education.

The emphasis on educational remedies may arise because it is much easier to establish sectarian schools than to influence behaviour in the home. More work needs to be done on Jewish family patterns, to understand how the family dynamics strengthen Jewish identity. We need to think of ways of encouraging families to celebrate festivals in the home such as Passover, because children will remember it and associate with it, when they have forgotten the Hebrew they learnt at school.

Authors such as Bernard Wasserstein and Norman Cantor warn of a collapse of Diaspora Jewry. This is reinforced by today's evidence. How acute the danger is may be a matter of dispute. But I believe that we can halt the decline. The solution has to be within the wider community, not by narrow retreat into the ghetto of sectarian education. It means being braver about what Jews stand for, braver about our attitude to social justice, intermarriage, and general education, and, now that we are confident in our Britishness, braver about standing up for other minorities, arguing that they too can make a contribution to the wider society.

Susan Elkin says children should attempt serious drama and music productions

Do put your pupils on the stage...

It does not matter how talented or otherwise you are at drama, music or backstage work; if, in your youth, you took part in any kind of school production it will be ingrained in your memory as one of the high spots of your schooldays.

No doubt you learnt much from it too. For me it was singing in Benjamin Britten's *Noye's Fludde*, playing the violin in an inter-schools performance of Haydn's *The Creation* under Sir David Willcocks and being part of a sort of Greek chorus in a dramatised version of Dylan Thomas's *Holiday Memory* ("When the sun declared war on the butter, and the butter ran...")

Few things offer as much cross-curricular educational enhancement as putting on a play, concert or show. We hear a deal about the value of teamwork these days. The proponents are usually blinkered advocates of more team games and sport. But productions offer a valuable chance to be a team member too. Only last term I watched a moving and commendably ambitious school production of Arthur Miller's Auschwitz play *Playing for Time* intimately performed by a large, all-female cast in a small space. The sense of cohesion among actors and technicians was palpable. Lucky girls to have been given that opportunity.

Plays do wonders for self-esteem too. It is fashionable to knock the concept of self-esteem as an excuse for selfish, hedonistic amorality: simplistic nonsense, of course. Those with a healthy sense of self-esteem are mentally balanced, at ease with themselves and the world. A young person can achieve near miracles of personal development through a school play. I co-directed a dramatisation of Ian Serailier's *The Silver Sword* a few years ago. In the course of rehearsals our stage manager, a mouse of a 12-year-old child whom we had, to our shame, hardly noticed previously, emerged from the ranks. She was a natural and became totally indispensable to the whole project. *The Silver Sword* was a major turning point for that girl — she blossomed progressively thereafter.

And what about getting to know the work of important playwrights and composers? There is no substitute for the internal perspective you get from taking part in a play when it comes to understanding what it is all about. My son had a one-line part as a citizen in a whole-school production of *Romeo and Juliet* when he was about 14 — a tiny contribution, but it meant that he attended many rehearsals which has left him with a permanent in-depth knowledge of the play.

That is why the choice of play is so important. I despair of schools which seem to alternate between *Bugsy Malone* and *Grease* — with *Annie* thrown in occasionally for light relief — because that is the current fashionable rut. Little of any real, lasting worth seems to get a look in.

It is all very well for head teachers — pragmatic eyes on the prospect of "income generation" — to argue for an unrelieved diet of large-scale Americana which will maximise ticket sales. What about the educational experience of the performers and back-stage crew? A school's prime responsibility is to the education of its pupils — not to the entertainment of the local community.

Although a few schools still attempt Shakespeare occasionally there seems to be a dreadful dearth of anything much else that is worthwhile. Who is performing Shaw, Ibsen, Chekhov, Bolt and Shaffer — to name but a handful of "greats".

Why aren't schools having a go at quality operetta and even, dare I say, an occasional opera? I know of one prep school and one city technology college which produced Gilbert and Sullivan operas in 1995 — *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Ruddigore*, respectively — but that is rare today. It is a great opportunity missed too. Not only are they part of our heritage but they are accessible, very funny and, incidentally, a good source of British social history.

And as for musicals, yes of course there is no reason why schools shouldn't do one occasionally in the interests of variety. But why does it almost always have to be American? The lazy throat croon is ugly, the diaphragm is a no-go zone and it is all churned into a microphone in that phoney "mid-Atlantic" accent. What is the matter with *My Fair Lady* or *The Sound of Music*? Are they ignored because they are too clean and straightforward? What an indictment of the way we always tend to give children what we have conditioned them (and their parents?) to think they want.

Most worrying are the schools who don't put on drama and music productions at all. Sadly the strikes and withdrawal of goodwill by large numbers of teachers in the mid-Eighties have left a long legacy. In some cases lack of commitment to extracurricular activities — sports matches, trips, plays — has become a habit and, unfortunately, part of the flavour of the school.

Far from being just a bit of window dressing, school productions are vital to the enhancement of the education of pupils. Every child should have the opportunity of being part of a school play. There should be lots of them happening in every school so that the children experience a really rich mixture.

MARTIN BEDDALL

An unchanging diet of *Grease* will teach very little

A new door opens for classroom 'failures'

Iola Smith reports on a Welsh initiative to launch a new qualification

Pass rates in public examinations may be rising year by year, but still as many as one teenager in 12 is leaving school without qualifications. With Sir Ron Dearing due to report next month on provision for the 16-19 age group, a little-noticed initiative in Wales may be timely.

The Principality is launching a new qualification called the Certificate of Educational Achievement (CEA) for non-academic 16-year-olds. Courses designed for the 7 to 8 per cent of pupils unable to pass GCSE will begin next September. The first of them will be examined in the summer of 1998.

Virtually all secondary and special schools in Wales and Northern Ireland will enter pupils, and it is expected that up to 1,000 schools in England will also participate. The reasons for such interest, according to Brian Rogers, CEA coordinator at the Welsh Joint Education Council (WJEC), is that the qualification is not a meaningless piece of paper.

"Instead of leaving school bored and empty-handed, these pupils would have gained a qualification they can present to employers," Mr Rogers says. "At the same time, they will be motivated rather than disenchanted and their self-esteem will have been raised."

The CEA builds on the previous success of the Certificate of Education, a qualification developed by Mid-Glamorgan LEA in 1984. Subsequently adopted by the WJEC, it was opened to pupils across the Principality and later successfully marketed in Northern Ireland and England.

But the Certificate of Education has come to the end of its useful life. Both the WJEC and Wales's Curriculum and Assessment Authority regard the old qualification as unsuitable to meet the needs of the revised national curriculum. It is therefore being abolished.

Unlike the old certificate, the CEA is stringently targeted. According to Roderick Richards, Education Minister for Wales, it is designed specifically for those pupils who failed to reach level three (which is expected of the average nine-year-old) in national curriculum subjects at age 14.

'It will raise some pupils' self-esteem and they will leave school motivated'

That does not mean, however, that pupils will be prevented from sitting a mixture of GCSEs and CEAs. For example, pupils likely to achieve GCSE grade G in English and humanity subjects will be able to sit those at GCSE level, in combination with, say, science and maths at CEA level.

Other pupils will be able to sit all their exams at CEA-level, while youngsters whose schools are uncertain whether they could pass GCSE may be entered for both qualifications. That way they can at least achieve a CEA.

The content of CEA courses will often parallel GCSE in many respects. For example, in English pupils will study Shakespeare (although perhaps focusing more on video interpretations) and their reading lists will be shorter than the GCSE.

Wales's Curriculum and Assessment Authority expects that up to 31 subject options will be available at CEA-level. They will include all national curriculum subjects, plus additional modern languages such as Spanish and Japanese, together with studies in topics such as childcare, textiles and drama.

Considerable emphasis will be placed on coursework and school-based assessment, and it is expected that pupils who pass CEA will be graded on three levels. The grades' names have yet to be confirmed, but they are likely to be pass, merit and distinction.

The WJEC is convinced that CEA's great strength is its role as a stepping-stone to further educational achievement. By 1998 it will be accepted as an entry qualification by further education colleges, and it is expected that students armed with CEAs will be able to build on their knowledge to achieve further vocational or academic qualifications.

هكذا في الاصل

Mastering the art of encouraging new talent

FREUD ON FRIDAY

It has been suggested that if the Arts Council stopped evaluating the work of clients who approached it for funds, sacked its team of properly-paid experts and sold its London headquarters, a part-time worker sitting behind a cheque book in a room in Houndsditch could meet most of the demands that are at present considered, assessed and refused.

I thought of that when I took a train to Twyford to visit Masters International . . . who have announced the award of four £5,000 annual bursaries under its Sports Career Counselling Scheme. I also thought about letting them counsel me, but decided against it.

Once upon a time there were agents who did deals and took a percentage. Now there are managements who do deals, take percentages *and* operate a "hands-on" approach to their customers: not just guiding them in their careers, but preparing them for life after stardom — planning finance, education, work experience and future employment. Masters International, whose motto is "winners managing winners", is a sort of hurrah/booh outfit.

It is headed by the 36th richest man in Britain. Hurrah.

He made his money as a tobacco trader and arms dealer. Booh.

His clients include Ieuan Evans (hurrah) and Mike Catt (booh). Allan Donald (hurrah) and Graeme Hick (booh). Enough of that. They also have Michael Campbell, Anders Forsbrand, Tony Johnstone, Helen Wadsworth, Emma Carrick Anderson, Gary Kasparov and Paul Adams — the South African who is in India bowling Chinamen to Arabs..

John Bredenkamp captained Rhodesia at rugby football, went on to create the fifth-largest tobacco company in the world, sold out for nine figures and founded Masters in 1994. It's headquarters is a Georgian mansion near Reading, a mansion that was once the home of Lady Palmer of Huntley & fame.

He has a private Gulfstream jet, had arrived in it that morning from New York having picked up his wife in Florida and it was hard to suppress the thought that the cost of the journey could have sponsored another dozen athletes. Let us examine what he has done, for it is wholly commendable and were others to emulate his example we might hold our heads higher in the arenas of world sport.

He has supported:

Marcus Adams, age 28, Commonwealth Games relay gold medal-winner, but stalled since 1993 with an Achilles tendon injury.

Sarah Bailey, 18, distinguished Paralympic Games medal-winner, and winner of ten gold medals at a British Sports Association for the Disabled senior event last year, now preparing for the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

Trevor Campbell, Manchester Giants under-23 basketball player with a future.

Will Greenwood, son of Richard Greenwood who captained England at rugby football; the 24-year-old works for a financial services company who treat him well, but he has to take unpaid leave to play, has been selected to join the England training squad. "His bursary will help him to continue to play and keep him in meaningful employment."

It is an eclectic list, chosen by Jim Cochrane, chairman of the British Schools Lawn Tennis Association and Geoff Thompson, former world heavyweight karate champion, using the principles of the Youth Charter for Sport, selecting from northwest England.

It will be fascinating to see how these folk reward the investment. It will be argued into the night whether this £20,000 bounty is the most beneficial way of achieving national success, or whether a number of younger, less advantaged, promising athletes in the same disciplines might have been a better pilot project.

Praise to Masters. I hope they flourish. In Lady Palmer's old home, which is now as lushly appointed as any office in the land, executives work to further their clients' ambition: Kasparov wants to go into politics; they are creating for him a smart-casual image via commercials for designer clothes and non-Lada cars.

They are also combating Mike Catt's proneness to hapless remarks like "I'll kick Rob Andrew into touch." They told me he actually meant "I have tremendous admiration for Mr Andrew but I, too, am able to convert penalties". A professional journalist has been employed by the management to sit down and advise the England full back on the dangers of spontaneous soundbites.

Modahl takes first steps on comeback trail

By David Powell, athletics correspondent

THE first public indication that Diane Modahl intends to resume her international athletics career was offered on Wednesday night when she appeared without notice in a low-key, four-mile road race around the home of Derby County Football Club, the Baseball Ground. Modahl may be facing financial ruin, but she is not destitute yet. "She paid her £2 entry fee," David Denton, the event organiser, said.

That afternoon, Modahl launched High Court proceedings against the British Athletic Federation (BAF) for "a substantial six-figure sum" in compensation for losses arising from her suspension for an alleged drugs offence. By the evening, she was experiencing that feeling of pinning on a number again, for the first time in 18 months. In a mixed field of 26, she finished tenth overall, setting a women's course record 22min 56sec.

Vicente Modahl, the athlete's husband, is angry that the federation has, in his view, made no attempt to help to rehabilitate her from the trauma of failing a drugs test. A BAF appeals panel overturned the guilty verdict last July. She is free to compete worldwide, pending a ruling from the International Amateur Athletic Fedration.

Modahl said that privileges accorded to British athletes of his wife's standard had not been extended to her since the appeal panel cleared her. Such athletes may be entitled to grants and medical support for treatment of injuries.

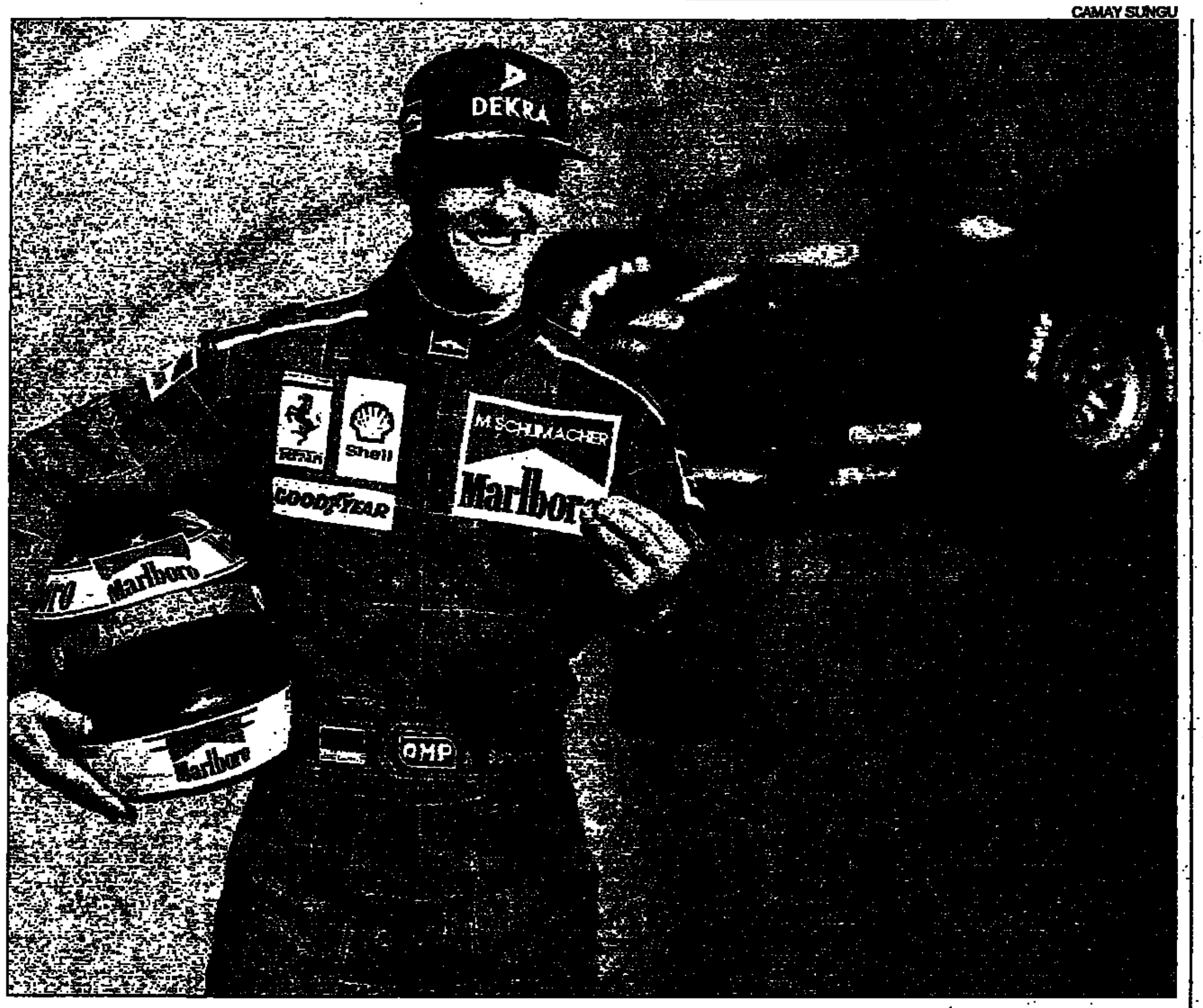
"Diane has not received one penny towards training or been told she is entitled to medical care," Modahl said. "She is not treated equally."

Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, said: "There is still a good deal of uncertainty about Diane's future participation at international level, so you cannot expect the federation to grant funds."

Modahl has not entered yet for the British Olympic trials in June. "She has been through a trauma and is struggling to know whether she is going to compete," her husband said. On Wednesday, Modahl said she faced "financial ruin".

Denton, a former Great Britain cross country selector, was impressed by her run. "If you put her in a decent 10k race in five or six weeks, I would have thought she could run 33 to 34 minutes," he said.

The Flora London Marathon announced yesterday that German Silva, the winner of the New York City Marathon for the past two years, would face Dionicio Cerón, his fellow Mexican and defending champion, in this year's race on April 21.



CAMAY SUNGU

Michael Schumacher, the world motor racing champion, and the car in which he will start his Ferrari career were the focus of attention as the team launched the F310 in Maranello, Italy, yesterday. Designed by a Briton, John Barnard, the car looks from the front more like a jet fighter but, despite its appearance, Schumacher was not moved to change his belief that he will not retain his title. "I am not downplaying my chances," he said. "But I have to be realistic. We are starting something new here." The German, who won the title driving for Benetton last year, added: "I spent 4½ years at Benetton and I felt quite empty. We'd achieved everything together and I needed a new motivation here." Luca di Montezemelo, the president of Ferrari, said: "Let's say now that we will win three races this year, but remember that Keke Rosberg won the championship in 1982 with just one." Damon Hill, Schumacher's principal rival last season, was fastest during practice in Estoril, Portugal, yesterday. Hill, driving his new Williams-Renault, recorded a lap of 1min 21.64sec. The Briton completed 27 laps of the 2.701-mile circuit. Rubens Barrichello, of Brazil, was the second-fastest in his Jordan-Peugeot, with a best time of 1min 22.59sec from 67 laps.

Contrasting fortunes for rising talents

A MOMENT of fame can be a double-edged sword. It can either lift your confidence to new heights or weigh you down so you sink like a stone. The two newcomers to fame in Dubai, Karel Novacek and Sandon Stolle, were at opposite ends of the spectrum yesterday (Alix Ramsay writes).

Novacek wilted under the serving power of Goran Ivanisevic while Stolle battled through to the quarter-finals against Andrei Cherkasov. Novecek's fame was acquired for all the wrong reasons — today he will learn how far the drug allegations against him have proceeded — and, against the No 4 seed, the pressure showed. At first he was outplayed, then he fought back briefly, but eventually lost 6-3, 7-5. "He was not as confident as he was before," said Ivanisevic.

Stolle did not let the after-effects of Wednesday's win over Thomas Muster slow him down. As the son of Fred Stolle, he has seen his share of life as a tennis professional. His father would not allow any slacking when Sandon was growing up. "But it's better to have a father who is hard on you than one who pampers you," he said.

"And coming from my family I have been around a lot of good tennis players." All of which should stand him in good stead in the seed-free half of the draw.

IN BRIEF

Bath favour Catt instead of Callard at full back

MIKE CATT, the England full back, replaces Jonathan Callard, the man he ousted from the national team, as the Bath full back to play Wasps in the Courage Clubs Championship *tomorrow*. Catt, the former Bath stand-off half, recently declared his intention of challenging for the new club position in an attempt to bolster his England career.

Callard missed four out of six kicks in the Pilkington Cup victory over Wakefield last Saturday, while Catt was playing for the Bath second team. John Hall, the club manager, said: "Jon's kicking is vital to his selection and we felt that it has not been as good as it usually is. Mike had a very good game for the United and we are picking week by week."

Still no joy

Bowls: Joyce Lindores, the women's world indoor champion from Scotland, lost to Stephen Rees, of Wales, 2-7, 7-6, 7-2, 5-7, 7-1 in the first round of the Churchill Insurance world indoor singles championship in Preston yesterday. A woman has yet to win a match in this event.

Rusedski march

Tennis: Greg Rusedski, the British No 1 and seventh seed, served ten aces on his way to a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Richard Fromberg, of Australia, in the first round of the Sybase Open in San Jose, California.

Solheim captain

Golf: Judy Rankin, 51, is the new captain of the United States Solheim Cup team for the bienniai match against Europe in September. She succeeds JoAnne Carner, who led the Americans to victory in 1994 but resigned recently.

Group rivals

Rugby union: England, the world cup sevens champions, have been drawn in the same group as Scotland for the Hong Kong tournament next month. Argentina and Singapore complete group B.

No practice

Skiing: Heavy snow and poor visibility led to the cancellation of practice for the downhill races at the world championships in Sierra Nevada, Spain, yesterday.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

This Refresher illustrates a good defensive point - if you need your partner to hold a specific card to beat the contract, play him for it. The problem looks trivial when you see all the cards, but a good player went wrong at the table. Concentrate on West's decision at trick two.

Dealer South **Game all** **IMP's**

North:
♠ A J 4
♥ Q
♦ 10 8 6 3
♣ A Q J 8 5

West:
♠ 10 9 8 5
♥ A 8 6
♦ A K J 2
♣ 9 7

East:
♠ 7 6 2
♥ 10 9 7 5 3
♦ Q 4
♣ 6 3 2

South:
♠ K Q 8
♥ K J 4 2
♦ 9 7 5
♣ K 10 4

Contract: 3NT by South Lead: ace of diamonds

South opened 1 NT (12-14) and North raised to 3 NT. On the first trick East played the four of diamonds perforce, and West had to decide what to do. The four of diamonds was consistent with a holding of 974 and without much thought West continued with another top diamond. That was the end of the defence.

What West should have done was work out what East could have in the way of high cards. Dummy and West have 26 points between them, and the declarer has at least 12. That means that East has at most two points, and the only useful two he can have is the queen of diamonds. If East's two-point holding is the queen of spades, South will have enough tricks, by way of five clubs, two spades and two hearts (he must have the jack of hearts to make up his twelve points). So it was clear West should have continued with a low diamond at trick two - playing his partner to hold the only card that would beat the contract.

Notice by the way that playing a high diamond at trick two wouldn't have done any good if South had had the doubleton queen - South would be bound to guess correctly if West played a third round, as an opening lead of ace from AKJ is more likely than from AKxx.

☐ For details of the Times Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AUTO-DA-FÉ
a. An electric car
b. Suicide
c. Holy burning

NULLIBIETY
a. Bachelordom
b. Being nowhere
c. Inertia, in Ayrshire

ENCHIRIDON
a. A mythical serpent
b. A gauntlet
c. A handbook

LUMBRICOID
a. Greasy
b. With a big bottom
c. Like an earthworm

Answers on page 42

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
chess correspondent

Computer deadlock

After four games of the match between Garry Kasparov and IBM's Deep Blue computer the score is still level. Game four was drawn after Kasparov squandered an early advantage with the rash advance 22 f5. Thereafter, the computer gained immense counterplay and Kasparov even had to sacrifice rook for knight in the latter stages of the contest to maintain the balance.

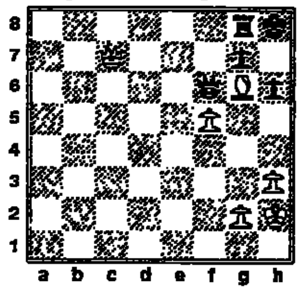
White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Deep Blue
Philadelphia, February 1996

Semi-Slav Defence

1	Nf3	d5
2	d4	c6
3	c4	e6
4	Nbd2	Nf6
5	e3	Nbd7
6	Bd3	Bd6
7	e4	Nxe4
8	Nxe4	dxe4
9	Bxe4	0-0
10	0-0	h6
11	Bc2	e5
12	Re1	exd4
13	Qxd4	Bc5
14	Qc3	a5
15	a3	Nf6
16	Be3	Bxe3
17	Rxe3	Bg4
18	Ne5	Re8
19	Rae1	Be6
20	f4	Qc8
21	h3	b5
22	f5	Bxc4
23	Nxc4	bxc4
24	Rxe8+	Nxe8
25	Re4	Nf6
26	Rxc4	Nd5
27	Qe5	Qd7
28	Rg4	f6
29	Qd4	Kh7
30	Re4	Rd8
31	Kh1	Qc7
32	Qf2	Qb8
33	Ba4	c5
34	Bc6	c4
35	Rxc4	Nb4
36	Bf3	Nd3
37	Qh4	Qxb2
38	Qg3	Qxa3
39	Rc7	Qf8
40	Ra7	Ne5
41	Rxa5	Qf7
42	Rxe5	fxe5
43	Qxe5	Re8
44	Qf4	Qf6
45	Bh5	Rf8
46	Bg6+	Kh8
47	Qc7	Qd4
48	Kh2	Ra8
49	Bh5	Qf6
50	Bg6	Rg8

Draw agreed

Diagram of final position



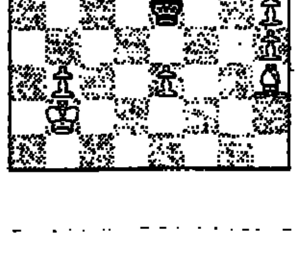
Polgar leads

After ten games of their sixteen game match for the world women's championship, Zsuzsa Polgar (Hungary) leads Xie Jun of China by 6½ to 3½.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene



White to play and mate in two moves. This position completes a week celebrating the problems composed by the teenage chess prodigy Lilian Baird. She composed this position in 1896, when 15 years old. The black king has tremendous freedom in the centre of the board but White can nevertheless force mate in two moves. Can you see how?

Solution on page 42

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New Jersey 88 Indiana 87; Detroit 102 Philadelphia 83; Charlotte 120 New York 100; Seattle 130 Minnesota 93; Vancouver 93 Sacramento 86; Golden State 108 Boston 103. LA Lakers 87 Atlanta 86

NATIONAL CUP: Semi-finals, second legs: London Towers 99 Birmingham Bullets 77 (London win 176-156 on agg); Sheffield Sharks 74 Crystal Palace 88 (Sheffield win 144-131 on agg).

BOWLS

PRESTON: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships: Singles: First round: G Harlow (Eng) bt M McMahon (HK) 7-6, 7-6, 5-7, 2-7, 7-3; A Welch (Guernsey) bt R Brassey (NZ) 3-7, 7-5, 5-7, 7-1, 7-4; M King (Eng) bt S Gaddy (NZ) 7-3, 7-5, 7-8; S Rees (Wales) bt J Lindores (Scot) 2-7, 7-6, 7-2, 5-7, 7-1

BOXING

SUNDERLAND: European featherweight championship: Billy Hardy (Sunderland, holder) bt Michael Alldis (Crawley), pts. Middleweight: Joe Townsley (Glasgow) bt Seamus Casey (Alfreton), pts; Davey Maw (Sunderland) bt Roy Chipperfield (Bury), pts. Middle: Dave Radford (Hemsworth) ko Davey Johnson (Boldon), 5th rnd. Welter: Deen Nicholas (South Shields) bt Shaun O'Neill (Sunderland), pts. Light-middle: Craig Winter (Wales) bt Mark Cichocki (Hartlepool), pts

CRESTA RUN

ARIS VATIMBELLA CUP: 1, C Felder (Switz) 152.90; 2, G Bruehwiler (Switz) 155.47; 3, A Boyd-Gibbins (GB) 155.45.

CRICKET

RAWALPINDI: World Cup: Group B: Postponed: South Africa v United Arab Emirates.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (third day of four): Perth: Queensland 154 and 237 (M Love 89, J Angel 5-45). Western Australia 207 (T Moody 59) and 73-0. Melbourne: South Australia 309 (T Nielsen 115, P Nobes 86) and 183-5. Victoria 519-7 dec (M Elliot 200, I Harvey 136).

CYCLING

TOUR OF THE MEDITERRANEAN: First stage (92km, Carcassonne-Beziers): 1, J Svorada (Cz) 1hr 49min 56sec; 2, A Tchmil (Ukr) at 1sec; 3, F Baldato (It); 4, E van Hooydonck (Bel); 5, S Dejongh (Holl); 6, M Strazzer (It) all same time. Overall positions: 1, Svorada (Cz) 1:49:46; 2, Tchmil at 5sec; 3, F Baldato (It) 7

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

FA CUP: Fourth round: Bolton Wanderers 0 Leeds United 1 (Leeds United at home to Port Vale in fifth round). Fourth round replays: Grimsby Town 3 West Ham United 0 (Grimsby Town at home to Chelsea in fifth round); Manchester City 2 Coventry City 1 (Manchester City away to Manchester United in fifth round); Port Vale 2 Everton 1 (Port Vale away to Leeds United in fifth round).

COCA-COLA CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Arsenal 2 Aston Villa 2.

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Third round: Berwick Rangers 1 Dundee United 2 (Dundee United home to Dunfermline in fourth round). Third-round replay: Montrose 3 Greenock Morton 2. (Montrose away to St Johnstone in fourth round)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Second division: Stirling Albion 2 Ayr United 0. Third division: Cowdenbeath 0 Brechin 0.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Unifilla Cup: Second round replay: Alfreton 3 Ashton 0.

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Bognor Regis 4 Basingstoke 1. Second division: Collier Row 0 Banstead 3.

FA VASE: Fifth round replay: Mangotsfield 3 Wivenhoe 0.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Ton Pentre 1 Cwmbran 1

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Second round replay: Cork 1 Home Farm 0.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Luton Town 2 Brighton 0; Norwich City 1 Bristol City 1, Southampton 1 Crystal Palace 0; Wimbledon 0 Swindon Town 3, Millwall 0 Tottenham Hotspur 2. Postponed: Ipswich Town v Charlton Athletic, Oxford United v West Ham United. Second division: Newport AFC 1 Cheltenham 0 (abandoned). Swansea City 4 Cardiff City 3

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Sheffield Wednesday 0 Notts County 1, Tranmere Rovers 4 Wolverhampton Wanderers 1. Second division: Hull City 0 Rotherham United 1, York City 0 Blackpool 3; Burnley 0 Middlesbrough 3. Third division: Lincoln City 1 Chesterfield 1; Scunthorpe United 0 Doncaster Rovers 1; Shrewsbury Town 2 Darlington 0; Walsall 1 Scarborough 1; Wigan Athletic 2 Bury 2.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Petersfield 0 Aerostructures 2.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Eastbourne Town 0 Shoreham 2; Whitehawk 0 Wick 2.

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Distillery 2 Carrick 1.

PORTUGUESE CUP: Sixth round replay: Benfica 3 Farense 0.

GERMAN LEAGUE: Cologne 0 Fortuna Düsseldorf 0.

FRENCH CUP: Second round: Montpellier 2 Istres 1; Blenod 1 Le Havre 1 (aet; Blenod won 4-3 on pens).

ITALIAN CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Bologna 1 Atalanta 1.

SPANISH CUP: Quarter-finals: Second legs: Real Zaragoza 1 Español 1 (1-1 on agg, Español win on away goal); Barcelona 3 Numancia 1 (Barcelona win 5-3 on agg).

BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: São Paulo championship: São Paulo 0 Palmeiras 2.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Hereford United 1 Manchester City 2.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Levon Yattes Trophy: Cannock 0 Wolverhampton 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 3 Hartford 0; Los Angeles 2 Buffalo 2 (OT); Philadelphia 4 Florida 2; Toronto 4 San Jose 3; Edmonton 3 Anaheim 2.

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Newcastle 5 Durham 9. First division: Billingham 8 Telford 6; Bracknell 5 Manchester 8.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SUPER LEAGUE NINE-A-SIDE SQUADS (Fiji, February 22 to 24):

ENGLAND: D Betts (Auckland Warriors), M Cassidy (Wigan), P Cantillon (Keighley), G Connolly (Wigan), M Ford (Warrington), A Farrell (Wigan), A Flynn (Castleford), S Haughton (Wigan), M Pearson (Featherstone Rovers), N Pinkney (Keighley), K Radlinski (Wigan), P Sculthorpe (Warrington), T Smith (Castleford), R Smyth (Wigan), M Wood (Keighley)

SCOTLAND: C Simmers (Edinburgh), D Shelford (Huddersfield), A Cowan (Oldham), G Thompson (Watsonians), N Mardon (Edinburgh University), A Blee (Loughborough University), D Russell (Carlisle), S Tait (Leeds), G Murdock (Whitehaven), G Graham (Carlisle), B Gambe (Aberdeen University), S Gillmore (Dundee University), D Shaw (London Broncos), S Cusack (Broughton Red Rose), B McGinty (Workington).

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Oxford University 39 Oxford 24; Bedford 38 Cambridge University 24.

WRU MIDWEEK COMPETITION: Pool B: Narberth 6 Dunvant 38.

SKIING

LA CLUSAZ, France: Freestyle World Cup: Moguls: Men: 1, J-L Brassard (Can) 26.08pts; 2, T Benson (US) 25.30; 3, L Nicol (Fr) 25.15. Women: 1, D Weinbrecht (US) 24.30; 2, T Mittermayer (Ger) 24.03; 3, M Karnu (Fin) 23.95.

TENNIS

DUBAI: Men's tournament: First round: S Stolle (Aus) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-1, 3-6, 7-6.

MARSEILLES: Men's tournament: First round: S Dosedel (Cz) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 6-4, 6-4; J Hlasek (Switz) bt A Chesnokov (Russ) 6-4, 6-2. Second round: G Forget (Fr) bt Y Noah (Fr) 4-6 6-3 6-3, C Pioline (Fr) bt K Kucera (Slovakia) 6-4 6-4.

PARIS: Women's tournament: First round: P Begerow (Ger) bt M Pierce (Fr) 7-5, 7-5; A Huber (Ger) bt D Van Roost (Bel) 7-6, 7-6.

SAN JOSE, California: Men's tournament (United States unless stated) First round: J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt M Joyce (US) 6-4, 6-2; J Gimelstob (US) bt N Pereira (Ven) 6-4, 6-2; J Stark (US) bt S Draper (Aus) 6-3, 6-3; G Rusedski (GB) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 6-1, 6-3; P Sampras bt T Ho 6-4, 6-3; M Ondruska (SA) bt M Tillstrom (Swe) 6-3, 6-1. Second round: J Krostak (Slovakia) bt J Grabb 6-3, 6-4.

CHIGWELL: Men's satellite tournament (Great Britain unless stated): First round: M Stadling (Swe) bt R Matheson 7-6, 6-4; O Stanoytchev (Bul) bt D Draper 7-6, 7-5; M Ruah (Ven) bt M Navarra (It) 6-4, 6-2; A Kitinov (Macedonia) bt C Beecher 7-5, 3-6, 6-2; G Galimberti (It) bt J Alven (Swe) 6-7, 6-1, 6-3; I Gaudi (It) bt S Costa (Br) 6-3, 6-4; T Spinks bt O Trott (Ger) 3-6, 6-3, 7-6; B Cowan bt L Milligan 6-2, 7-6; R Wassen (Holl) bt R Koenig (SA) 6-2, 7-6; N Aerts (Br) bt J O Rios (P Rico) 6-1, 7-5. Second round: M Gould bt I Heuberger (Switz) 7-5, 6-4; Gaudi bt Spinks 7-5, 6-4; Cowan bt Stadling 6-3, 6-2; O Sele (Isr) bt Stanoytchev 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; Ruah bt D Sapsford 6-3, 6-7, 6-3; Kitinov bt Wassen 4-6, 7-6, 6-2; Galimberti bt Aerts 6-4, 6-3; A Richardson bt C Haggard (SA) 7-6, 3-6, 6-5.

SHEFFIELD: Women's satellite tournament (Great Britain unless stated): Second round: M Wainwright bt M Geiger (US) 6-4, 5-7, 7-5; D Zaric (Yug) bt E Bond 6-3, 6-3; E Kulikovskaya (Russ) bt S-A Siddall 6-2, 6-0; M Beadman (Aus) bt O Ivanova (Russ) 6-1, 6-1. Quarter-finals: C Taylor bt D Haak (Holl) 6-2, 6-0; J Macurova (Cz) bt K Shibata (Japan) 6-3, 6-0; Zaric bt Wainwright 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; Kulikovskaya bt Beadman 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 7.0 unless stated

A international
Wales v Scotland
(at Swansea, 3.15)

Under-21 international
Wales v Scotland
(at Swansea, 1.30)

Representative match
Wales Univ v Scotland Univ
(at Pontypool)

Club matches
Abertillery v Glamorgan Wanderers
Bridgend v Stirling County
Cross Keys v Oakdale
Llandovery v Narberth
Llanelli v Boroughmuir
Llanharan v Aberavon
Maesteg v Maesteg Celtic
Newport v Glasgow HK
Penarth v Univ College of Wales
Pontypridd v Dundee HSFP
Swansea v Pontypool (7.15)
Treorchy v Bonymaen

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Bohemians v Cork (7.45); Drogheda v Shelbourne (7.45); St Patrick's Ath v Shamrock (7.45); Athlone v Galway (8.0).

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Adidas Victory Shield under-15 international: Wales v Northern Ireland (at Wrexham FC, 7.15). English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Quarter-final: Walsall v Wirral (at Walsall Wood FC). FA Premier League under-16 trophy: Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire (at Bilsthorpe FC, 1.30). English Schools Snickers under-16 trophy: Monkseaton HS, Whitley Bay v York College (2.0). English Schools Goodyear under-16 trophy: Windsor HS West Midlands v Winecote HS, Staffs (2.0). English Schools girls' Vimto under-16 trophy: Victoria HS, Cumbria v Glenbur HS, Lancashire (3.0); Willenhall West Midlands v Bosworth College, Leicester (2.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham v Leicester (7.30); London v Sheffield (8.15).

BOWLS: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships (Preston).

SNOOKER: Sweater Shop International Open (Swindon).

TENNIS: LTA men's satellite tournament (Chigwell); LTA women's satellite tournament (Sheffield).

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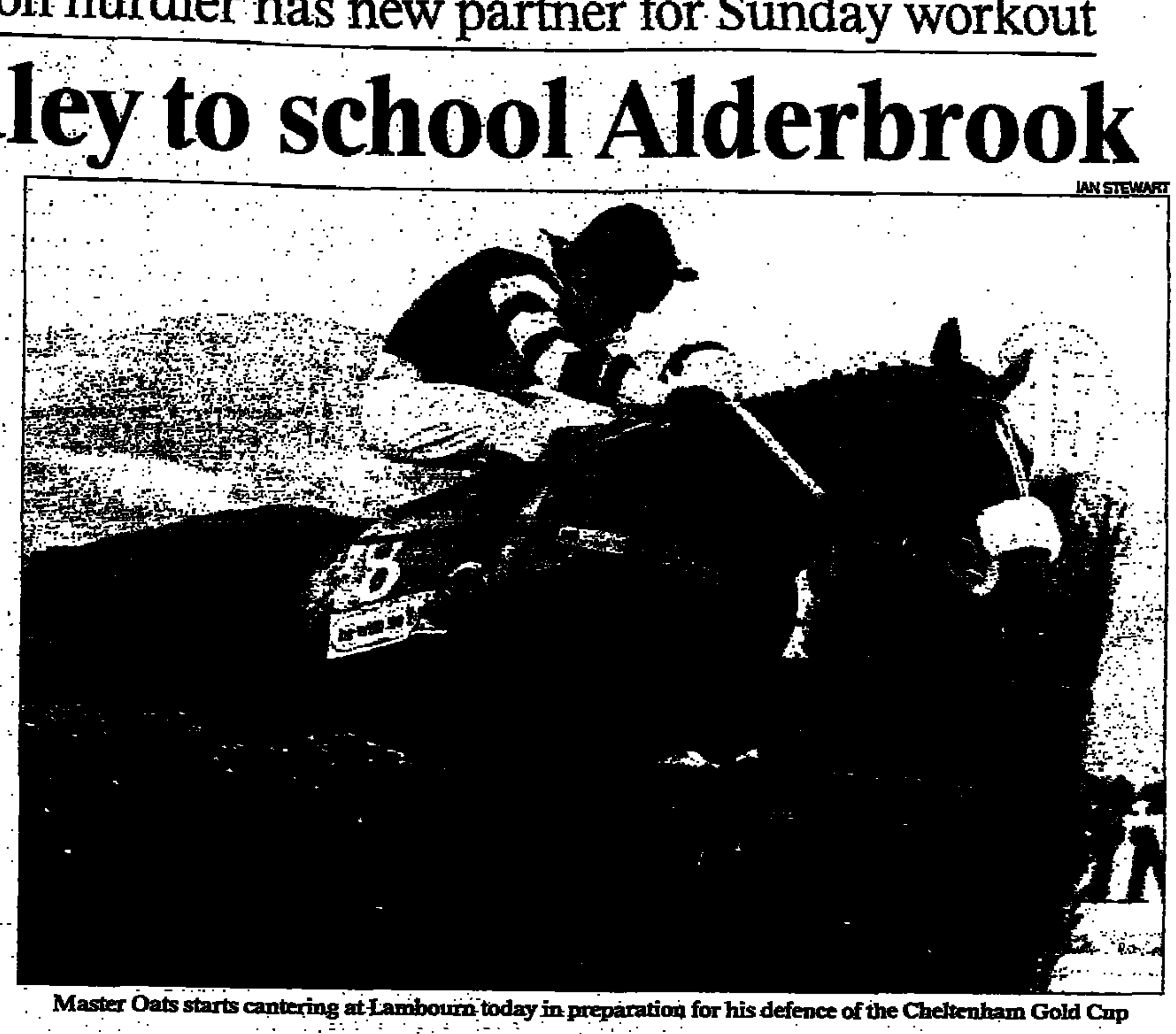
Champion hurdler has new partner for Sunday workout

Bradley to school Alderbrook

By Julian Muscat



IAN STEWART

Master Oats starts cantering at Lambourn today in preparation for his defence of the Cheltenham Gold Cup

GRAHAM BRADLEY was yesterday summoned by Kim Bailey to put Alderbrook through his paces at Lambourn on Sunday, when the seven-year-old will have his last school in advance of his seasonal debut next week.

Bradley, who has never ridden Alderbrook before, is to put the seven-year-old over a series of poles ahead of the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton on Thursday. Recent injuries to Norman Williamson and Jamie Osborne dictate that Bradley is almost certain to ride Alderbrook on his first outing over hurdles since his Champion Hurdle victory 11 months ago.

Nap: DARZEE
(3.10 Sandown Park)
Next best: Bob's Ploy
(3.55 Uttoxeter)

"It will be a little getting-to-know-you session for the pair of them," Bailey said. "At this stage everything is going to plan with Alderbrook." The trainer also gave Master Oats a clean bill of health on his return from Ireland and the Cheltenham Gold Cup winner starts cantering this morning in preparation for the defence of his crown on March 14.

After his crashing fall at Ascot on Wednesday, Jamie Osborne was yesterday discharged from hospital feeling sore but entirely sound of limb. Remarkably, he escaped serious injury but is now confronted by 21 days of enforced inactivity on account of Jockey Club regulations. The jockey was concussed in the fall, albeit for a short period.

"The first I knew about my 21-day absence was when I tuned into the Teletext service in hospital," Osborne said. "I have spoken to Dr Michael Turner [the Jockey Club's medical officer] about it and he made it plain that the period was strictly not negotiable. The rule is there to prevent jockeys coming back too soon after taking falls, and I have to accept it is there to safeguard our own health."

Nevertheless, Osborne must wait until four days before the start of the Cheltenham Festival before he can pick up the reins. "It is very frustrating," he said. "Normally, I'd be looking to finalise my Cheltenham rides over the next three weeks, but I'll have to do it from the substitutes' bench."

In entirely different circumstances, Richard Hannon was another to rush back from a period of inactivity when he flew in from Barbados yesterday to supervise Alriffa's debut over hurdles. In the end it was all to no avail. A sharp frost forced the abandonment of Sandown's card and Alriffa, who holds the Champion Hurdle engagement, now joins his stablemate, Right Win, in a raid on Wincanton next week.

"Graham McCourt will ride both horses and we will sit down to firm up our Cheltenham plans after that," Hannon said. "My vet was not happy with Right Win's blood count two weeks ago. The horse had a few days off and seems fine now. He'll be blood-tested again on Monday with a view to taking on Alderbrook and Atours. That should tell us where we stand with him." Alriffa, for his part, squares up to less-exalted company in the Mere Maiden Hurdle over two miles.

It is looking increasingly unlikely that Montelado, the horse with legs of glass, will make it to post for the Champion Hurdle. The Pat Flynn-trained gelding has suffered a recurrence of the tendon injury that has plagued his career.

Although Flynn opted to reserve judgment at this stage, his words yesterday hardly struck a chord of optimism. "I'm a man who likes to live in hope," he ventured. "My vet is due in to look at the horse on Monday, when we will make a final decision about the Cheltenham Festival."

Newcastle goes ahead

NEWCASTLE'S Eider Chase meeting tomorrow was given the go-ahead yesterday, even though part of the track was found to be unfit.

Stewards yesterday found that boggy patches in the straight had made the hurdle course unsatisfactory. However arrangements have been made for the two hurdles in the straight to be transferred to the Flat course.

Although yesterday's Sandown fixture was called off because of heavy frost, prospects for today's meeting are reported to be much brighter. An inspection is planned for 7.30am.

THUNDERER

1.30 Crown Equerry
2.00 Northern Saddler
2.35 Cuddy Dale
3.10 Darzee
3.45 Dark Honey
4.15 Cabochon
4.50 Arctic Fusilier

101	113143	GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0	B West (7)	88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.30 GILLY GILFORD NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE
(£3,550: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

101	102	CROWN EQUERRY 27 (D,G) (R Ogden) A Turnell 6-11-4	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
102	115-1	MONICASMAN 114 (D,F,G,S) (A Turnbull) A Jarvis 6-11-4	A P McCoy	83
103		EDEN ROC (S Ross) B De Haan 6-11-0	S McNeill	–
104	5-	FLIPPANCE 310 (C Rykens) N Gaselee 6-11-0	F Cooper (7)	–
105	200	GONE FOR LUNCH 29 (Gradely Partners) Miss H Knight 5-11-0	G F Ryan (5)	69
106	2300-65	JUST BRUCE 28 (A Heath) Mrs E Heath 7-11-0	D Bentley	88
107	0-	KILLUSTY CASTLE 328 (W Ponsonby) N Henderson 6-11-0	J R Kavanagh	–
108	50	MASTER PALLIETER 42 (M Van Doorne) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-0	R Farrant	–
109	36	MY CHEEKY MAN 42 (Mrs A Stules) D Nicholson 5-11-0	R Johnson (3)	–
110	30P	PA D'OR 34 (Peoples Express) J Gifford 6-11-0	P Hide	–
111	00-06	PURBECK RAMBLER 29 (Miss M Lane) G Balding 5-11-0	J Railton	70
112	0	REBEL PRIEST 41 (M Davies) C Egerton 6-11-0	G Bradley	–
113	06-20	SIR LEONARD 35 (Mrs J Bishop) S Sherwood 6-11-0	C Maude	86
114		ARADIA'S DIAMOND (R Marland) C Broad 5-10-9	T J Murphy (3)	–
115	0-40	QUICK QUOTE 42 (M Barlow) Mrs I McKie 5-10-9	L Harvey	80

BETTING: 9-4 Crown Equerry, 7-2 Monicasman, 5-1 My Cheeky Man, 8-1 Flippance, 10-1 Sir Leonard, 12-1 Killusty Castle, 14-1 Purbeck Rambler, 16-1 others.

1994: KILLONE ABBOT 5-11-0 J Osborne (4-1) J Old 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

CROWN EQUERRY 3l 2nd of 13 to Jet Rules in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good). MONICASMAN beat Campeche Bay in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good to firm). GONE FOR LUNCH best effort when short-head 2nd of 11 to Magsled in National Hunt Flat race at Ludlow (2m, firm). SIR LEONARD 4l 2nd to Karshi in 16-runner novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good) penultimate start.
Selection: CROWN EQUERRY

2.00 SQUIRREL HANDICAP CHASE (£4,554: 2m) (5 runners)

201	56/211-F	KONVEKTA KING 13 (D,F,G,S) (Konvekta Ltd) O Sherwood 8-11-10	M Richards	89
202	5-11312	NORTHERN SADDLER 22 (D,F,G,S) (R Evans) R Hodges 9-11-4	R Dunwoody	93
203	U1263-3	MEDINAS SWAN SONG 108 (D,G,S) (C Perry) R Hodges 8-11-0	A Tory	[illegible]
204	2-41144	RODEO STAR 28 (B,D,F,G,S) (J Bradbury) N Tinkler 10-10-9	G Bradley	97
205	130533	SOUTHAMPTON 28 (F,G,S) (Highflyers) G Balding 6-10-0	A P McCoy	85

Long handicap: Southampton 9-13.
BETTING: 7-4 Northern Saddler, 9-4 Konvekta King, 9-2 Medinas Swan Song, 5-1 Southampton, 7-1 Rodeo Star.

1995: BOLD CHOICE 9-10-12 J Frost (9-4) R Frost 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

KONVEKTA KING beat Bottles 2l in 4-runner chase at Nottingham (2m, good) on final start last season. NORTHERN SADDLER 1¼l 2nd to Easthorpe in 4-runner limited handicap chase at Wincanton (2m, good). MEDINAS SWAN SONG 18l 3rd of 4 to Travado in Haldon Gold Cup at Exeter (2m 1f 110yd, good to firm). RODEO STAR best effort when beating Political Tower in handicap chase at Newcastle (2m 110yd, good).
Selection: NORTHERN SADDLER

2.35 STAG HANDICAP CHASE (£7,068: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

301	156-1U4	YORKSHIRE GALE 28 (CD,G,S) (B Naylor) J Gifford 10-11-10	R Dunwoody	94
302	11-P3F4	KING CREDO 13 (C,F,G,S) (J Bolam) S Woodman 11-11-8	A P McCoy	90
303	F25-3U4	ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 62 (D,F,G,S) (B Hathaway) D Nicholson 9-11-5	R Johnson (3)	96
304	12-C4FP	GHIA GNEUIAGH 41 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Scott) N Twiston-Davies 10-11-5	C Maude	95
305	12-3133	RUN UP THE FLAG 35 (CD,F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 9-11-5	P Hide	94
306	4301F5	BISHOPS ISLAND 29 (D,G,S) (Lord Vestey) Miss H Knight 10-11-2	G F Ryan (5)	93
307	261525	TUG OF PEACE 36 (F,G,S) (P Richardson) G Balding 9-10-11	B Clifford	97
308	214222	PHILIP'S WOODY 34 (BF,F,G,S) (B Winston) N Henderson 8-10-9	J R Kavanagh	93
309	33214-5	CUDDY DALE 34 (CD,F,G,S) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 13-10-7	K Gaule (5)	[illegible]

BETTING: 2-1 Philip's Woody, 9-2 Cuddy Dale, 5-1 King Credo, Bishops Island, 6-1 Run Up The Flag, 10-1 Yorkshire Gale, Tug Of Peace, 12-1 others.

1995: CUDDY DALE 12-10-2 M A Fitzgerald (7-1) N Henderson 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

YORKSHIRE GALE best effort beat Edimbourg 2½l in 6-runner handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f 110yd, good) with RUN UP THE FLAG (5lb better off) 3l 3rd and GHIA GNEUIAGH (8lb better off) tailed off 4th. TUG OF PEACE 5l 2nd of 14 to Dextra Dove in handicap chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good) penultimate start. PHILIP'S WOODY ¾l 2nd of 16 to Denver Bay in handicap chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft).
Selection: PHILIP'S WOODY

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TRAINERS: A Turnell, 7 winners from 18 runners, 38.9%; P Nicholls, 6 from 16, 37.5%; D Nicholson, 29 from 84, 34.5%; S Woodman, 3 from 12, 25.0%; Miss H Knight, 6 from 25, 24.0%; J Old, 7 from 30, 23.3%.

JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody, 36 rides from 118, 30.5%; L Wyer, 3 from 10, 30.0%; J Titley, 4 from 14, 28.6%; J Frost, 5 from 23, 21.7%; W Marston 5 from 24, 20.8; A Maguire, 20 from 102, 19.6%.

3.10 PHILIP BARNARD MEMORIAL CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,388: 2m 6f) (15 runners)

401	50-50P1	LANSDOWNE 22 (D,S) (R Dennead) P Nicholls 8-11-11	G Supple (7)	95
402	1-31415	EVER SMILE 27 (D,F) (D L'Estrange) M Pipe 9-11-10	O Burrows (5)	92
403	30F0-54	HIGH GRADE 27 (G,S) (Grady Partners) Miss S Wilton 8-11-9	R Johnson	98
404	160262	JADIDH 25 (CD,F,G,S) (D Hazzard) C Wildman 8-11-8	B Fenton	95
405	21/12	DARZEE 41 (F,S) (T Walsh) P Hedger 6-11-7	M Clinton (7)	[illegible]
406	38-P004	NICK THE BEAK 13 (S) (N Wilson) J Upson 7-11-2	J Supple	96
407	0/P341-0	METAL OISEAU 28 (B,D,G,S) (F Ivory) P Ritchens 8-10-13	S Fox	96
408	0360-01	NO FIDDLING 30 (D,S) (M Batchelor) M Wilkinson 5-10-10	P Crowley (7)	95
409	3111/0-P	RES IPSA LOQUITUR 34 (F,S) (R Gray) B Pearce 9-10-7	Martin Smith (5)	–
410	-4-3P310	DOMINIE 34 (B,G,S) (A Hayes) K Bailey 8-10-5	T J Murphy	97
411	212/002	DANGER BABY 30 (F,G) (Mouse Racing) D Williams 6-10-3	M Clarke (7)	98
412	2/P3P1-6	ACE PLAYER 22 (G) (R Michaelson) D Chappell 8-10-1	M Kelly (5)	89
413	00-4505	PLATO'S REPUBLIC 68 (F) (Mrs E Long) J Jenkins 5-10-0	D Yellowlees (7)	89
414	P-31544	PETTAUGH 32 (D,F) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 8-10-0	K Gaule	93
415	P03003	OLD MONEY 29 (D,G) (Uncle Jacks Pals) C Broad 10-10-0	R Massey	87

Long handicap: Plato's Republic 9-12, Pettaugh 9-12, Old Money 9-3.
BETTING: 5-1 Jadidh, 11-2 Darzee, 6-1 High Grade, 7-1 Lansdowne, Nick The Beak, 8-1 Danger Baby, 10-1 Ever Smile, 12-1 others.

1995: JADIDH 7-10-9 D Salter (6-1) C Wildman 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

LANSDOWNE beat Mr Playfull 6l in 17-runner handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to soft) with ACE PLAYER (12lb better off) 12l 6th. EVER SMILE beat Slaskel Hero 5l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to firm) on penultimate start. HIGH GRADE about 5¾l 4th of 15 to Angelo's Double in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good). JADIDH short-head 2nd of 11 to St Ville in handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (3m 3f, heavy). DARZEE 1¾l 2nd to Buckhouse Boy in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, soft). NO FIDDLING beat Little Chink 6l in maiden hurdle at Warwick (2m 6f 110yd, soft). DANGER BABY 1¼l 2nd of 18 to Cambo in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, soft).
Selection: DARZEE.

3.45 BADGER NOVICES CHASE (£4,463: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

501	25/1P2P	DARK HONEY 34 (CD,G,S) (R Sayer) S Dow 11-11-10	R Dunwoody	[illegible]
502	10P-1PF	FALMOUTH BAY 34 (G,S) (J Morton) S Sherwood 7-11-10	G Bradley	87
503	/F5/26-	ASCOT LAD 290 (F,G) (J Berry) B De Haan 11-11-3	S McNeill	79
504	0/1P2-55	CHIAPPUCCI 38 (G,S) (Mrs E Heath) Mrs E Heath 6-11-3	D Bentley	–
505	3/1-0652	DISSINGTON DENE 65 (F,S) (D & W Wythe) J Norton 7-11-3	W Fry	–
506	45163/3-	GOLDEN SPINNER 449 (G,S) (P Miller) N Henderson 9-11-3	A P McCoy	80
507	2-D102F	HAWAIIAN SAM 44 (G) (R Russell) A Turnell 6-11-3	L Harvey	91
508	R6/	JOURNEYS FRIEND 688 (P Winfield) N Henderson 8-11-3	J R Kavanagh	–
509	P0A/P-P	PARLIAMENTARIAN 27 (A Wales) T Casey 7-11-3	R Johnson	–

BETTING: 3-1 Dark Honey, 7-2 Dissington Dene, 4-1 Falmouth Bay, 5-1 Golden Spinner, 6-1 Hawaiian Sam, 7-1 Chiappucci, 12-1 others.

1995: KADI 6-11-7 A Maguire (Evens fav) D Nicholson 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

DARK HONEY 2l 2nd of 13 to Major Summit in novice chase over course and distance (good to soft); FALMOUTH BAY (4lb worse off) pulled up after 6th. FALMOUTH BAY best effort this season, beat Mr Pickpocket ¾l in 12-runner novice chase at Taunton (2m 3f, good). ASCOT LAD neck 2nd of 8 to Primitive Singer in novices handicap chase over course and distance (good to soft) on penultimate start March 1995. DISSINGTON DENE 3½l 2nd of 8 to Phaleser in handicap hurdle at Bangor (3m, good). GOLDEN SPINNER 21l 3rd of 5 to Strath Royal in novice chase at Nottingham (2m 5½f, good).
Selection: DARK HONEY (nap)

4.15 CAT & MOUSE CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,884: 2m 110yd) (11 runners)

601	450	ART TATUM 28 (A Merrill) G McCourt 5-11-5	S Ryan (7)	79
602	0503-0P	KHATIR 27 (B,D,F,G,S) (F Farrant) M Pipe 5-11-0	J Lower	98
603	0/05	PAULA'S BOY 104 (Wessex Fm) D Elsworth 6-11-0	A McCabe	64
604	P34-400	CABOCHON 22 (D,G,S) (J Joseph) R Frost 9-10-12	J Frost	[illegible]
605	0P5131	HAWTHORNE GLEN 23 (D,F,S) (Mrs G Davison) Mrs M Long 9-10-12	B Fenton (3)	90
606	2F1-521	ROBINS PRIDE 36 (D,G,S) (M Long) C Popham 6-10-11	T Dascombe (5)	93
607	5	FROGMARCH 28 (Mrs H Mills) R Phillips 5-10-8	J Railton	86
608	/66111-	READY TO DRAW 375 (D,S) (A Wallis) R O'Sullivan 7-10-8	D O'Sullivan	89
609	3213-4P	ROSGILL 64 (D,F,S) (Brigadier Racing) J White 10-10-6	A P McCoy	94
610	2/124-34	FORGETFUL 6F (D,F,G) (Equus Club) D Burchell 7-10-6	D J Burchell	89
611		PREMIER BLUES 156F (G Crean) R Williams 6-10-3	S Keightley	–

BETTING: 4-1 Ready To Draw, 9-2 Khatir, 5-1 Cabochon, 6-1 Forgetful, Hawthorne Glen, Robins Pride, 10-1 Paula's Boy, 12-1 others.

1995: LEAVENWORTH 11-10-5 A P McCoy (7-2) Mrs J Retter 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

KHATIR tailed off when pulled up before 2 out in 15-runner handicap hurdle won by Angelo's Double at Kempton (2m 5f, good). PAULA'S BOY 12½l 5th of 8 to Gulinda in novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). CABOCHON best effort this season, 16½l 4th of 10 to Bookcase in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 2f, good). HAWTHORNE GLEN beat Arctic Life 2l in 12-runner handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1½f, good to soft). ROBINS PRIDE beat Stac-Pollaidh 5l in 18-runner novices claiming hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft). FROGMARCH 27½l 5th of 12 to Castle Sweep in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good). READY TO DRAW beat Valiantha 8l in 11-runner novices claiming hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, soft). FORGETFUL head 3rd of 7 to Nordic Valley in claiming hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm).
Selection: CABOCHON

4.50 SANDOWN STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£2,304: 2m 110yd) (22 runners)

1		ARCTIC FUSILIER (Mrs R Hambro) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3	C Maude	–
2		ASHMEAD RAMBLER (The Guiborn Set) P Hobbs 6-11-3	A P McCoy	–
3		BEACON FLIGHT (Hayfleet Partners) B De Haan 5-11-3	R Dunwoody	–
4		CORE BUSINESS (Mrs E Reffo) Lady Herries 5-11-3	E Murphy	–
5		DEXTRA (Dexter Lighting Systems) S Earle 6-11-3	J Railton	–
6		GERRY'S PRIDE (G Heard) G Balding 5-11-3	B Clifford	–
7	6	GIPSY GEOF 27 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 5-11-3	K Gaule (3)	–
8		HURRICANE LAMP (Mrs F Walsh) D Nicholson 5-11-3	R Johnson (3)	–
9		JOHNNY-K (Norwood Partners) D Nicholson 5-11-3	R Massey (5)	–
10		LEITRIM COTTAGE (B & M McHugh Ltd) T Casey 5-11-3	S Laird (7)	–
11		MUSIC MASTER (M Davies) C Egerton 6-11-3	G Bradley	–
12	00	MYSTIC MARCH 2 (D Bell) P Rodford 5-11-3	S Burrough	–
13	6	SIR DANTE 86 (P Wilby) R Rowe 5-11-3	D O'Sullivan	–
14		SWAN STREET (Stamford Bridge) C Mann 5-11-3	Muredach Kelly (7)	–
15		THE BAY BOMBER (N Harrell) T Clement 6-11-3	J McLaughlin	–
16		THE WHOLE LOT (A Heath) Mrs E Heath 6-11-3	D Bentley	–
17		UPRISING (Pell-mell Partners) J Old 6-11-3	S McNeill	–
18	5	COMPUTERAID LADY 70 (M O'Brien) R Curtis 6-10-12	D Morris	–
19		AIM FOR STARDOM (Mrs M Maloney) M Ahern 4-10-7	R Farrant	–
20	6	FERN GROVE 6 (D Hazzard) C Wildman 4-10-7	J R Kavanagh	–
21		ADEPT FLYER (Mrs P King) J King 4-10-2	G Upton	–
22		ROSALEE ROYALE (Mrs G Davison) Mrs M Long 4-10-2	B Fenton (3)	–

BETTING: 4-1 Hurricane Lamp, 5-1 Arctic Fusilier, Johnny-K, 7-1 Ashmead Rambler, 8-1 Gipsy Geof, Computeraid Lady, 10-1 Beacon Flight, 12-1 others.

1995: SUPREME GENOTIN 6-11-3 T Grantham (5-2) J Old 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

GIPSY GEOF 18¾l 6th of 21 to Colonel Blazer in National Hunt Flat race at Kempton (2m, good). MYSTIC MARCH 31l 9th of 17 to Sounds Like Fun in National Hunt Flat race at Ludlow (2m, good) on penultimate start. SIR DANTE 22¾l 6th of 10 to Chopwell in National Hunt Flat race at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good). FERN GROVE 64l 19th of 25 to Andanito in National Hunt Flat race at Newbury (2m 110yd, good to soft).
No selection

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Towcester

Going: soft, heavy patches (chase course); heavy (hurdles)

2.10 (2m hdle) 1, Selatan (R Dunwoody, 5-1). 2, Swivel (12-1); 3, Mister Morose (4-9 fav) 11 ran. 1¼l, 6l. D Gandolfo. Tote: £5.90; £2.10, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £17.70. Trio: £3.70. CSF: £57.44.

2.40 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Trying Again (R Dunwoody, 2-7 fav); 2, Dancing Pimpernel (33-1); 3, Sparkling Spirit (10-1). 5 ran. Dist, 6l. D Gandolfo. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £3.60. DF: £4.80. CSF: £8.28.

3.15 (3m hdle) 1, Tennessee Twist (W Marston, Evens fav); 2, What's Your Story (9-4); 3, Jultera (13-2). 10 ran. 4l, 6l. Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £2.10; £1.40, £1.30, £1.90. DF: £2.60. Trio: £2.40. CSF: £3.84.

3.50 (3m 1f ch) 1, Billygoat Gruff (A Maguire, 4-7 fav); 2, Sister Stephanie (7-4); 3, Holy Sting (25-1). 8 ran. ½l, 11l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.60; £3.40, £1.10, £3.10. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.13.

4.20 (2m flat) 1, Sprig Muslin (D Fort, 10-1); 2, Mid Day Chaser (5-1); 3, River Bay (5-1). Convent Garden 9-4 fav. 16 ran. 3l, 6l. D Gandolfo. Tote: £10.50; £2.10, £2.80, £1.90. DF: £17.40. Trio: £129.30 (part won, pool of £127.58 carried forward to 3.10 Sandown today). CSF: £63.61.

4.55 (2m flat) 1, Dublin Freddy (A Maguire, 3-1 fav); 2, Indian Tracker (7-1); 3, Rhythm And Blues (10-1). 14 ran. 12l, 3l. D Nicholson. Tote: £4.20; £1.60, £2.60, £2.80. DF: £13.60. Trio: £133.90 (part won, pool of £83.01 carried forward to 3.10 Sandown today). CSF: £24.65.

Placepot: £5.80. Quadpot: £6.30.

Taunton

Going: soft (chase course); good to soft, soft in places (hurdles)

1.40 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Chai-Yo (G Upton, 9-4 fav); 2, Ikaasab (6-1); 3, Cracking Prospect (12-1). 14 ran. 3l, 14l. J Old. Tote: £4.40; £1.60, £2.20, £2.60. DF: £16.90. Trio: £81.90. CSF: £16.83.

2.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Touch Silver (M Bosley, 5-1 fav); 2, Minster's Madam (6-1); 3, Mutawali (25-1); 4, Celcius (14-1). 16 ran. 1½l, 3½l. H Manners. Tote: £5.90; £2.20, £2.10, £7.20, £2.60. DF: £17.70. Trio: £233.40 (part won, pool of £197.32 carried forward to 3.10 Sandown today). CSF: £33.02. Tricast: £822.00.

2.45 (3m ch) 1, Samlee (D Bridgwater, 7-4 fav); 2, Mount Serrath (11-1); 3, Cooinas (9-4). 13 ran. NR: Pounding Surf. 3l, 13l. P Hobbs. Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £2.30, £1.10. DF: £19.30. Trio: £15.00. CSF: £21.14.

3.20 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, Flow (Mr J Culloty, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Pride Of Britain (8-1); 3, Koo's Promise (12-1). Caring Dancer 7-2 jt-fav. 14 ran. NR: Free Dancer, Skelton Princess. 3½l, 20l. R Buckler. Tote: £3.30; £1.40, £2.90, £2.80. DF: £36.40. Trio: £85.60. CSF: £29.79. Tricast: £261.60.

3.55 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Early Drinker (J A McCarthy, 9-2); 2, Fenwick (14-1); 3, Mister Oddy (100-30 jt-fav). Beau Babillard 100-30 jt-fav. 11 ran. 5l, ¾l. O Sherwood. Tote: £7.10; £1.60, £2.50, £1.60. DF: £28.80. Trio: £64.40. CSF: £61.21. Tricast: £217.35.

4.30 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Star Market (C Maude, 7-1); 2, Lying Eyes (6-1); 3, Ho-Joe (10-1). Morstock 9-2 fav. 12 ran. NR: Teen Jay. 1¾l, 2½l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £7.60; £1.80, £2.70, £1.90. DF: £21.10. Trio: £40.50. CSF: £45.90. Tricast: £387.14.

5.00 (2m 1f flat) 1, Mead Court (R Johnson, 3-1); 2, Royal Rabbit (9-2); 3, Fabulous Mtoto (12-1). Grooms Gold 11-4 fav. 14 ran. 8l, 3½l. N Chance. Tote: £3.50; £1.40, £1.70, £3.10. DF: £8.10. Trio: £32.40. CSF: £18.27.

Placepot: £72.80. Quadpot: £16.00.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.20 (6f) 1, Jersey Belle (S Sanders, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Our Shadee (6-1); 3, Respectable Jones (8-2). Apollo Red 7-2 jt-fav. 10 ran. 2l, ½l. P Mekin. Tote: £4.60; £2.30, £2.10, £1.10. DF: £17.70. Trio: £20.60. CSF: £23.70. Tricast: £90.90.

1.50 (1m 4f) 1, Mister Aspecto (T Williams, 8-11 fav); 2, Tondres (10-1); 3, Streaky Hawk (14-1). 10 ran. 1¾l, 7l. M Johnston. Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £2.80, £3.10. DF: £17.50. Trio: £20.30. CSF: £10.72.

2.25 (2m) 1, Juliasdarkinvader (A Clark, 16-1); 2, Heighth Of Fame (5-2); 3, Milngavie (11-10 fav). 9 ran. Hd, 9l. A Moore. Tote: £23.60; £2.30, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £31.20. Trio: £13.40. CSF: £54.39. Tricast: £75.24.

3.00 (7f) 1, Charming Bride (J Tate, 10-11 fav); 2, Badger Bay (6-4); 3, Tahya (5-1). 4 ran. ¾l, 1¾l. S Williams. Tote: £2.00. DF: £1.50. CSF: £2.79.

3.35 (1m) 1, Domoor (J Weaver, 5-4 fav); 2, Creeking (5-2); 3, Willie Rushton (11-1). 8 ran. 1l, 2½l. M Johnston. Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £1.70, £2.20. DF: £3.30. CSF: £4.90. Tricast: £20.82.

4.05 (6f) 1, Newington Butts (S Sanders, 10-1); 2, Sharp Imp (11-4 fav); 3, The Institute Boy (6-1). 10 ran. ¾l, sh hd. K McAuliffe. Tote: £7.90; £1.50, £1.10, £3.40. DF: £31.00. Trio: £53.60. CSF: £38.36. Tricast: £176.00.

4.35 (1m 5f) 1, Claque (Miss R Clark, 8-1); 2, Aydar (13-2); 3, Don't Drop Bombs (9-2). Iron N Gold 100-30 jt-fav. 10 ran. 1¾l, 4l. D Chapman. Tote: £10.00; £1.50, £3.60, £3.30. DF: £28.40. Trio: £42.30. CSF: £53.98. Tricast: £239.08.

Placepot: £15.50. Quadpot: £7.00.

☐ Sandown Park abandoned — frost

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER
1.45 Debutante Days. 2.20 PILKINGTON (nap). 2.50 Lets Rumble. 3.25 Queen Of Spades. 3.55 Bob's Ploy. 4.30 Bell Staffboy. 5.00 French Holly.
Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.55 ROLFE.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.45 HEARTLANDS CENTRAL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,453: 2m) (15 runners)

1	160	CRACUSA 62 (D,G) J Mackie 11-4	T Eley	85
2	3221	DAILY BOY 34 (D,G) T Easterby 11-4	L Wyer	87
3	510	DOMAPPEL 28 (D,G) Mrs J Cecil 11-4	T Kent	88
4	1	DEBUTANTE DAYS 13 (D,F) Miss H Knight 10-13	J F Titley	[illegible]
5	1	FEN TERRIER 11F (D,G) W Haggas 10-13	T Jenks	82
6		EDELWEISS DU MOULIN 116F F Murphy 10-12	P Carberry	–
7	0	HIGHLY CHARMING 41 M Muir 10-12	D Bridgwater	55
8	PO	INDONESIAN 13 (B) C Brooks 10-12	G Bradley	–
9	022	IN GOOD FAITH 41 J Quinn 10-12	W Marston	92
10		LEONTIOS 302F M Tompkins 10-12	D Gallagher	–
11		RAMSDENS 102F N Twiston-Davies 10-12	C Llewellyn	–
12	6	SMART GUEST 29 J A Harris 10-12	A S Smith	72
13		SPORTING RISK 155F P Webber 10-12	G McCourt	–
14		WOODLANDS LAD TOO 39F P Pritchard 10-12	R Davis	–
15		LOVE THE BLUES 130F D Nicholson 10-7	A Maguire	–

3-1 Debutante Days, 7-2 Love The Blues, 4-1 In Good Faith, 5-1 Daily Boy, 6-1 Domappel, 8-1 Fen Terrier, 10-1 Ramsdens, Cracusa, 12-1 others.

2.20 CANNOCK TOWN CENTRE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,654: 2m 4f 110yd) (16)

1	-100	BELLROI 34 (C,F) M Tompkins 5-11-10	D Gallagher	76
2	133	BULLENS BAY 24 S Sherwood 7-11-4	J A McCarthy	[illegible]
3	-500	CAREYSVILLE 36 J Edwards 5-11-4	Mr B Potts (7)	78
4	1-34	CLAVERHOUSE 25 (F) J Fitzgerald 7-11-4	W Dwan	83
5	5-60	FRENCH BUCK 30 (G) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-4	C Llewellyn	70
6	P	IRISH LUCK 90 P Dalton 6-11-4	T Eley	–
7	345-	MANDICAT 314 (G) J Fitzgerald 6-11-4	L Wyer	–
8	4413	PILKINGTON 30 (BF,G) Mrs H Parrott 6-11-4	S Curran (3)	70
9	P342	POTTER'S BAY 27 D Nicholson 7-11-4	A Maguire	90
10	3625	ROBERO 34 (V) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	W Marston	85
11	0	SOUND FORECAST 34 (S) Mrs S Johnson 8-11-4	Miss C Thomas	–
12	00	SUPREME SPIRIT 43 Mrs D Haine 7-11-4	J F Titley	82
13	102	TIPPING THE LINE 111 (G) M Pipe 6-11-4	D Bridgwater	–
14	P6-0	CELTIC EMERALD 43 R Eckley 6-10-13	V Slattery	–
15	13-	QUADRAPOL 431 (G) S Christian 7-10-13	J Lodder	74
16	3000	RI RA 29 R Hollinshead 6-10-13	Gary Lyons	73

3-1 Bullens Bay, 7-2 Potter's Bay, 4-1 Tipping The Line, 6-1 Claverhouse, 8-1 Robero, 10-1 Bellroi, Mandicat, 12-1 French Buck, Quadrapol, 14-1 others.

2.50 FESTIVAL HEIGHTS NOVICES CHASE (£3,064: 3m 2f) (7)

1	3-13	CELTIC TOWN 25 (F,S) O Sherwood 8-11-10	J A McCarthy	83
2	0-31	HAG'S WAY 32 (S) J Edwards 6-11-10	A Maguire	59
3	0-53	DO BE HAVE 13 (G) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-4	W Marston	–
4	-244	LETS RUMBLE 22 (S) (BF) R Alner 7-11-4	Mr P Henley (5)	[illegible]
5	2160	SAN GIORGIO 30 (F,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-4	C Llewellyn	–
6	P-23	SORREL HILL 46 (G,S) P Hobbs 9-11-4	G Tormey (3)	84
7	0F05	DONJUAN COLLONGES 15 (S) F Murphy 5-10-13	P Carberry	92

5-2 Celtic Town, 3-1 Lets Rumble, 4-1 Hag's Way, 5-1 Sorrel Hill, 6-1 Donjuan Collonges, 8-1 Do Be Have, 10-1 San Giorgio.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Mann, 5 winners from 14 runners, 35.7%; M Tompkins, 6 from 19, 31.6%; M Pipe, 43 from 145, 29.7%; O Sherwood, 16 from 54, 29.6%; S Brookshaw, 5 from 18, 27.8%; K Bailey, 24 from 87, 27.6%.

JOCKEYS: G Tormey, 8 winners from 24 rides, 33.3%; G Bradley, 8 from 38, 21.1%; A S Smith, 5 from 25, 20.0%; G McCourt, 10 from 55, 18.2%; A Maguire, 20 from 119, 16.8%; J A McCarthy, 3 from 19, 15.8%.

3.25 ST GEORGE'S CENTRE MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £1,801: 2m) (16)

1		DIABLE AU CORPS 8F F Murphy 5-11-3	P Carberry	–
2	2232	DREAM RIDE 29 (BF) D Nicholson 6-11-3	A Maguire	95
3	6P/0	FRANK KNOWS 62 T George 6-11-3	T Jenks	–
4	00	FRIAR STREET 29 C Mann 6-11-3	D Gallagher	60
5		KINGS CAY 105F T Caldwell 5-11-3	L Wyer	–
6	-U56	MITTENWALD 36 K Bailey 7-11-3	A Thornton	61
7	646	SCOTTISH BAMBI 28 P Webber 8-11-3	G McCourt	89
8	0200	WEEHEBY 25 M Barraclough 7-11-3	G Tormey (3)	[illegible]
9		ARCTIC MAID 480F M Pipe 5-10-12	D Bridgwater	–
10	04-0	CHARMING GIRL 36 O Sherwood 5-10-12	J A McCarthy	66
11	36	FAIRIES FAREWELL 38 S Sherwood 6-10-12	S Curran (3)	–
12	4-12	QUEEN OF SPADES 104 (BF,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-12	C Llewellyn	92
13	0P6	AMBIDEXTROUS 9F E Alston 4-10-7	F Leahy (3)	66
14	55	GOLDEN FISH 90 Mrs K Whitehouse 4-10-7	W Humphreys	62
15	0	PICKENS 13 N Tinkler 4-10-7	A S Smith	–
16	0	SHARMOOR 34 Miss L Siddall 4-10-2	E Husband (3)	–

5-2 Queen Of Spades, 3-1 Dream Ride, 4-1 Arctic Maid, 6-1 Charming Girl, 8-1 Weeheby, 10-1 Scottish Bambi, 12-1 Fairies Farewell, 14-1 others.

3.55 ST GEORGE'S CENTRE MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £1,792: 2m) (16)

1	0	BARBAROJA 13 J Fitzgerald 5-11-3	L Wyer	–
2	40-0	BRAZIL OR BUST 41 P Webber 5-11-3	G McCourt	–
3	-000	COLWALL 29 F Allsop 5-11-3	Mr M Rimell	72
4	4	COUNT OF FLANDERS 38 K Morgan 6-11-3	A S Smith	–
5		EASY BREEZY O Sherwood 6-11-3	J A McCarthy	–
6	0246	NAGARA SOUND 29 B Preece 5-11-3	Gary Lyons	77
7		NORTHERN KINGDOM 242F K Bailey 7-11-3	A Thornton	–
8	34	ROLFE 24 D Nicholson 6-11-3	A Maguire	[illegible]
9	000	SOMMERSBY 6F Mrs N Macauley 5-11-3	D Bridgwater	73
10	00-0	BEL PROMISE 41 P Webber 7-10-12	R Bellamy	–
11		LEGATEE 14F A Streeter 5-10-12	T Eley	–
12	P	MISS TUT 24 T Bill 5-10-12	T Jenks	–
13	00-0	RIO DANCER 36 H Oliver 7-10-12	Jacqui Oliver	59
14	0-60	WOEFUL LAKE 41 A J Wilson 5-10-12	C Llewellyn	–
15		BOB'S PLOY 145F M Tompkins 4-10-7	D Gallagher	–
16	0	MR CHRISTIE 34 Miss L Siddall 4-10-7	W Marston	–

9-4 Rolfe, 7-2 Bob's Ploy, 5-1 Easy Breezy, 6-1 Northern Kingdom, 9-1 Barbaroja, 12-1 Brazil Or Bust, Nagara Sound, 16-1 others.

4.30 ORBITAL CENTRE NOVICES CHASE (£3,023: 2m 5f) (7)

1	-122	CALL IT A DAY 36 (BF,S) D Nicholson 6-11-9	A Maguire	[illegible]
2	-145	BELLS LIFE 34 (S) P Hobbs 7-11-3	G Tormey (3)	69
3	1030	BELL STAFFBOY 13 (F,G) C Broad 7-11-3	W Marston	–
4	4	CAMINO 30 Miss H Knight 9-11-3	J F Titley	71
5	P'PP	LIFT AND LOAD 30 (F,G,S) R Alner 9-11-3	W McFarland	–
6	0600	LUKS AKURA 38 (V,S) W Clay 8-11-3	Guy Lewis (3)	–
7	-P33	STORMING RUN 85 P Dalton 8-11-3	T Eley	73

2-5 Call It A Day, 6-1 Bells Life, 8-1 Storming Run, 10-1 Bell Staffboy, 12-1 Camino, 14-1 Lift And Load, 25-1 Luks Akura.

5.00 COOMBS WOOD STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,460: 2m) (16)

1		CARRY THE CARD S Christian 5-11-4	D Gallagher	–
2		DACELO O Sherwood 5-11-4	J A McCarthy	–
3		DARK ORCHARD Mrs H Parrott 5-11-4	S Curran (3)	–
4		FRENCH HOLLY F Murphy 5-11-4	P Carberry	–
5		GENERATOR T Easterby 5-11-4	R Garritty	–
6		SHARE OPTIONS T Easterby 5-11-4	L Wyer	–
7		SWAN STREET C Mann 5-11-4	Muredach Kelly (7)	–
8		SYMPHONY'S SON D Nicholson 5-11-4	A Maguire	–
9		CAVALIER PRINCESS E Alston 5-10-13	F Leahy (3)	–
10		CELTIC LADY Mrs N Macauley 5-10-13	E Husband (3)	–
11		HONEYSUCKLE LIL T Bill 6-10-13	T Jenks	–
12		MOOR HALL LADY N Burke 5-10-13	A Larnach (3)	–
13		NERO'S GEM C Jackson 5-10-13	W Humphreys	–
14		BARTON SCAMP S Brookshaw 4-10-8	T Eley	–
15		NOT GUILTY H Oliver 4-10-8	Jacqui Oliver	–
16		THE BREWER D Jones 4-10-8	D Bridgwater	–

7-2 Dacelo, 4-1 Symphony's Son, 9-2 Share Options, 5-1 Carry The Card, 6-1 French Holly, 8-1 Generator, 12-1 Moor Hall Lady, The Brewer, 16-1 others.

FAKENHAM

THUNDERER
2.15 Master Murphy. 2.45 Zambezi Spirit. 3.20 Trail Boss. 3.50 Church Law. 4.25 Sheer Jest. 4.55 Pinecone Peter.
Carl Evans: 4.25 Sheer Jest.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.15 SHERINGHAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,714: 2m) (15 runners)

1	P	JUST FLAMENCO 14F M Ryan 5-12-0	N Mann	
2	2210	DURSHAN 84 (V,G) J Jenkins 7-11-12	B Powell	
3	5445	KALZARI 29 (D,G) A Carroll 11-11-11	D Walsh (5)	
4	0620	NEVEROLD 57 (D,S) M Ahern 8-11-10	M Molloy (7)	
5	8023	MAGICAL BID 22 (B) J Bradley 4-11-6	M A Fitzgerald	
6	2-42	EMERALD VENTURE 43 (D,F,G) F Coton 9-11-5	D J Moffatt	
7	0546	WORDY'S WIND 24 L Wordingham 7-11-4	Mr J Culloty (7)	
8	0-30	WATER DIVINER 119 (CD,F,G) K Wingrove 6-11-3	J Ryan	
9	P0/	SEA BARN 631 (F) M Coombe 13-11-1	Miss M Coombe	
10	-064	MASTER MURPHY 29 C Broad 7-11-0	G Hogan (3)	
11	U00	CALL ME FLASH 24 Mrs P Sly 4-10-9	P McLoughlin	
12	P200	LAMBSON 35 (V,G) J Pearce 9-10-9	M Dwyer	
13	F664	SABEEL 24 (B) T George 6-10-6	Mr R Thornton (7)	
14	345	RAFIQ 80 Mrs L Jewell 5-10-1	J McLaughlin	
15	0600	PONTEVECCHIO BELLA 42 (B,D,S) Mrs L Jewell 10-10-0	W Walsh (7)	

7-2 Durshan, 11-2 Neverold, 13-2 Magical Bid, 8-1 Kalzari, 10-1 others.

2.45 PRINCE CARLTON HANDICAP CHASE (£4,049: 3m 110yd) (11)

1	U004	GLEN MIRAGE 22 (F,S) M Coombe 11-11-13	Miss M Coombe
2	-P35	LYME GOLD 38 O Sherwood 7-11-11	D Thomas (7)
3	2-03	OJOMIYO 23 M Bradstock 6-11-10	P Holley
4	64-F	SIMWELL 30 (D,G) G Hubbard 8-11-8	M A Fitzgerald
5	5514	SPROWSTON BOY 2 (CD,F,G,S) M Chapman 13-11-6	W Worthington
6	5463	OPAL'S TENSPOT 23 (D,F,G,S) J Bradley 9-11-5	Mr J Culloty (7)
7	-4FP	IMPECCABLE TIMING 42 (F,S) O O'Neill 13-11-4	Mr A Mitchell (7)
8	P260	PRIZE MATCH 30 (S) J Tuck 7-11-3	I Lawrence
9	-5P0	CRACKLING FROST 23 Mrs D Haine 8-11-0	G Hogan (3)
10	PP-1	ZAMBEZI SPIRIT 86 (D,F) Mrs M Jones 7-10-11	D Byrne
11	-264	BAVARD BAY 27 (B,S) G Barnett 12-10-11	M Brennan

3-1 Ojomiyo, 4-1 Zambezi Spirit, 5-1 Simwell, 6-1 Lyme Gold, 7-1 Opal's Tenspot, 10-1 Glen Mirage, 12-1 Prize Match, 14-1 others.

3.20 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,759: 2m 4f) (11)

1	2143	TIM J Jenkins 6-11-5	B Powell
2	P4P4	BIETSCHHORN BARD 29 D Gandolfo 6-11-0	M Dwyer
3	135P	BLATANT OUTBURST 57 (F) G Bravery 6-11-0	P McLaughlin
4	0/0	COUNTRY CONCORDE 38 C Jones 6-11-0	D Walsh (5)
5	5	FLYING FIDDLER 57 M Roberts 5-11-0	G Hogan (3)
6	542	HOODED HAWK 36 N Henderson 5-11-0	M A Fitzgerald
7	P	ISHMA 30 Mrs L Jewell 5-11-0	D Leahy
8	21-3	LOTTERY TICKET 76 (S) J Edwards 7-11-0	P Niven
9	0	RIVER CHALLENGE 64 J Upson 5-11-0	R Supple
10	-P00	SHANNON LAD 62 A Carroll 6-11-0	M Brennan
11	2P	TRAIL BOSS 34 (BF) Miss H Knight 5-11-0	Mr J Culloty (7)

9-4 Hooded Hawk, 3-1 Lottery Ticket, 5-1 Trail Boss, 8-1 Tim, 10-1 others.

3.50 BET WITH THE TOTE NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £3,495: 3m 110yd) (9)

1	-113	BRAES OF MAR 43 (BF,F,G,S) N Henderson 6-11-3	M A Fitzgerald
2	2315	CHURCH LAW 36 (G) Mrs L Taylor 9-11-3	R Supple
3	/1-	WHO'S NEXT 33P (C,G,S) J Jenkins 8-11-0	B Powell
4	-102	ARTIC WINGS 24 (C,F,G,S) O Brennan 8-10-12	M Brennan
5	24F1	GARRYLOUGH 28 (G,S) D Gandolfo 7-10-12	M Dwyer
6	-6PP	BLACK ARROW 30 (S) D O'Brien 9-10-10	G Hogan
7	FPF6	LO-FLYING MISSILE 28 R Dickin 8-10-10	D Byrne
8	510F	NUPDOWN BOY 44 (F) N Chance 7-10-10	D Leahy
9	2UP	FIGHTING TROUT 27 (G) Miss A Embiricos 9-10-5	J Ryan

7-4 Braes Of Mar, 5-2 Garrylough, 11-2 Church Law, 6-1 Artic Wings, 8-1 Nupdown Boy, 16-1 Fighting Trout, 20-1 Who's Next, 25-1 others.

4.25 WALTER WALES MEMORIAL CUP HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,559: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

1	2F-1	SHEER JEST 33P (D,F,G,S) W Warner 11-12-6	A Hill (3)
2	421-	DUNCAN 272 (C,F,G,S) Miss C Saunders 11-11-10	B Pollock (5)
3	P31-	ERINS BAR 283P (G) N Pomfret 7-11-10	A Sansome (7)
4	10-	FARINGO 289 (C,G) F Farrow 11-11-10	C Ward (7)
5	5P-3	GYPSY KING 33P N Wrighton 8-11-10	A Coe (7)
6	21-0	JUST JACK 33P (CD,F,G,S) P Jonason 10-11-10	S Andrews (3)
7	/51-	PROFESSOR LONGHAIR 283 (F,G) Mrs C Hicks 9-11-10	R Hicks (7)
8	P64	SAINT BENE'T 5P (F) G Prodromou 8-11-10	N King (7)
9	0/	DOC LODGE 991 (B) S Baker 10-11-5	Mr S Baker (7)

9-4 Sheer Jest, 5-2 Duncan, 5-1 Faringo, 6-1 Erins Bar, 8-1 Professor Longhair, 12-1 Gypsy King, 16-1 others.

4.55 CROMER HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,125: 2m) (13)

1	2-60	PINECONE PETER 30 (V,CD,F,G,S) O Brennan 9-11-13	M Brennan
2	1-23	IVY EDITH 95 (F,S) T Mills 6-11-10	Chris Webb (5)
3	/0P	BROWNSIDE BRIG 23 (CD,BF,F,G) O Sherwood 11-11-0	D Thomas (7)
4	0220	PYRAMIS PRINCE 30 (D,S) John Whyte 6-10-13	C Rae (7)
5	3325	NOCATCHIM 43 (V,D,F,G,S) K Morgan 7-10-13	P Niven
6	362-	WORDY'S WONDER 336 (CD,G,S) L Wordingham 8-10-13	Mr J Culloty (7)
7	-000	SECRETARY OF STATE 25 (CD,G) D Arbuthnot 10-10-12	A Procter (3)
8	2521	MANOLETE 34 (D,S) Mrs M Jones 5-10-12	D Byrne
9	03-5	KEEL ROW 30 (G) T Thomson Jones 6-10-11	M A Fitzgerald
10	14U0	SASSIVER 13F (B,D,F,G) P Kelleway 6-10-10	G Hogan (3)
11	52-6	WEATHER ALERT 251 (G) K Morgan 5-10-10	E Callaghan (5)
12	-567	KELLY MAC 30 (CD,S) D O Brien 6-10-9	M Dwyer
13	04F6	FERENS HALL 44 M Roberts 9-10-0	P McLoughlin

4-1 Keel Row, 9-2 Manolete, 6-1 Ivy Edith, Kelly Mac, 7-1 Nocatchim, 8-1 Sassiver, 10-1 Weather Alert, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Miss C Saunders, 6 winners from 6 runners, 100%; D Gandolfo, 4 from 5, 80.0%; O Sherwood, 4 from 7, 57.1%; J Upson, 3 from 7, 42.9%; D Brennan, 9 from 27, 33.3%; G Bravery, 4 from 12, 33.3%.

JOCKEYS: M Brennan, 9 winners from 36 rides, 25.0%; R Farrant, 3 from 17, 17.6%; J Ryan, 4 from 34, 11.8%. No other qualifiers.

Blinkered first time

Sandown Park: 3.10 Dominie. Southwell: 1.50 Diasafina

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
1.50 Dirab. 2.25 Mooncusser. 2.55 Kira. 3.30 Upper Mount Clair. 4.05 Pharly Dancer. 4.35 Cashmere Lady.
Our Newmarket Correspondent:
3.30 UPPER MOUNT CLAIR (nap). 4.35 Tatika.

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

1.50 GIRTON HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,398: 1m 3f) (12 runners)

1	1-31	THORNTOUN ESTATE 17 (G) M Johnston 9-7	Dean McKeown 7
2	64-5	EBONY BOY 42 (C,G) J Wharton 9-7	C Teague (5) 6
3	6-31	DANCING CAVALIER 25 (C,G) R Hollinshead 9-6	F Lynch (7) 9
4	4-56	DIRAB 25 T Barron 9-6	J Fortune 5
5	0-13	GUY'S GAMBLE 25 (C,BF,G) J Wharton 9-2	J Fanning 8
6	33-0	UONI 17 C Brittain 9-0	M Larsen 4
7	4-65	SUPARDY 38 T Mills 8-9	J Quinn 11
8	5546	BE MY BIRD 18 W Musson 8-7	R Cochrane 3
9	00-4	SPORTING FANTASY 18 (F) J Balding 8-6	Claire Balding 10
10	00-0	ONEFOURSEVEN 25 (B) S Bowring 8-5	N Carlisle 2
11	-636	DOWN THE YARD 7 (F) M Chapman 8-3	C Munday (7) 12
12	0-04	DIASAFINA 14 (B) S Williams 7-10	G Bardwell 1

7-2 Thorntoun Estate, 4-1 Dancing Cavalier, 5-1 Dirab, 6-1 Guy's Gamble, 8-1 Ebony Boy, Supardy, 10-1 Be My Bird, Down The Yard, 12-1 others.

2.25 HARDWICK CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,398: 1m) (8)

1	30-0	BEN'A'VACHEI BOY 27 J Bethell 8-13	J Weaver 5
2	0-0	BRIDLINGTON BAY 32 J Eyre 8-9	R Lappin 4
3	4-42	MOONCUSSER 7 (B) J Fitzgerald 8-9	M Wigham 7
4		SPIRIT OF SPORT A Newcombe 8-6	N Adams 3
5	-131	PEOPLE DIRECT 4 (G,CD) K McAuliffe 8-6	J Fortune 2
6	20-0	PETITE ANNIE 24 T Mills 8-4	J Quinn 1
7	-424	BUMBLEFOOT 4 (G,BF) M Johnston 8-2	T Williams 8
8	5343	EFIPETITE 4 N Bycroft 8-0	G Bardwell 6

2-1 People Direct, 5-2 Mooncusser, 9-2 Efipetite, 5-1 Bumblefoot, 8-1 Petite Annie, 12-1 Ben'a'vachei Boy

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: K McAuliffe, 5 winners from 19 runners, 26.3%; M Ryan, 19 from 83, 22.9%; M Johnston, 33 from 178, 18.5%; N A Graham, 4 from 22, 18.2%; M Camacho, 16 from 97, 16.5%; G Wragg, 3 from 19, 15.8%.

JOCKEYS: J Weaver, 42 winners from 223 rides, 18.8%; T Ives, 22 from 123, 17.9%; F Lynch, 6 from 37, 16.2%; R Cochrane, 25 from 164, 15.2%; J Fortune, 19 from 128, 14.8%; R Lappin, 7 from 48, 14.6%.

☐ General Rusty was well backed for the Sun Alliance Chase with Ladbrokes yesterday and was cut from 20-1 to 14-1. Yesterday's Towcester winner Billygoat Gruff is 20-1 from 14-1.

2.55 KIRKBY-IN-ASHFIELD HANDICAP (£3,518: 6f) (10)

1	650-	JOHNNIE THE JOKER 77 (CD,F,G) J Leigh 5-10-0	P Roberts (5) 10
2	00-0	NORDAN RAIDER 32 (CD,F,G,S) M Camacho 8-9-13	R Cochrane 7
3	6-00	LEIGH CROFTER 18 (B,D,F,G,S) J A Harris 7-9-11	J Weaver 4
4	000-	ALLINSON'S MATE 132 (B,CD,F,G) T Barron 8-9-6	J Fortune 5
5	-211	KIRA 9 (CD,G) J Eyre 6-9-4 (7ex)	R Lappin 6
6	-251	FIRST MAITE 7 (B,CD,G) S Bowring 3-9-1 (7ex)	C Teague (5) 9
7	5120	DAAWE 4 (V,CD,G,S) Mrs V Aconley 5-8-11	M Deering 2
8	56-5	EFFICACY 4 (D,G) A Jarvis 5-8-6	J Tate 1
9	0016	BOLD ARISTOCRAT 8 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 5-8-4	F Lynch (7) 8
10	-311	SEEKING DESTINY 14 (CD,G) M Chapman 3-7-10	P Fessey (5) 3

3-1 Kira, 4-1 First Maite, 5-1 Seeking Destiny, 6-1 Daawe, 8-1 Bold Aristocrat, Efficacy, 10-1 Leigh Crofter, Allinson's Mate, 12-1 others.

3.30 LAXTON HANDICAP (£2,886: 2m) (10)

1	0-13	YOUGO 11 (C,G) M Johnston 4-10-0	J Weaver 5
2	236-	DOUCE MAISON 72J (G) A Jarvis 5-9-13	J Tate 10
3	000-	SMAFAR 41J (F) N Graham 5-9-8	T Ives 2
4	5-21	UPPER MOUNT CLAIR 7 (CD,F,G) C Brittain 6-9-2 (4ex)	M Larsen 6
5	5/31	BADAWI 18 (CD,F,G) N Babbage 6-8-10	J Quinn 3
6	/01-	ALCIAN BLUE 24J (F) M Hammond 5-8-8	DOUBTFUL 9
7	-331	RECORD LOVER 11 (CD,G) M Chapman 6-8-4 (4ex)	C Munday (7) 1
8	0-03	SWORDKING 7 (F,G,S) J L Harris 7-7-12	N Carlisle 4
9	-000	SAMANA CAY 11 (B,F) P Felgate 4-7-12	Iona Wands (7) 7
10	30/2	BAHER 7 Mrs A Swinbank 7-7-10	G Bardwell 8

5-2 Upper Mount Clair, 7-2 Badawi, 5-1 Record Lover, 6-1 Baher, 8-1 Yougo, 10-1 Swordking, 12-1 Douce Maison, 14-1 others.

4.05 MAPLEBECK SELLING STAKES (£2,085: 1m 4f) (8)

1	0/45	BALLYRAG 7 (S) R Fahey 5-9-0	A Culhane 6
2	4-33	EL NIDO 23 (CD,F,G,S) M Camacho 8-9-0	J Weaver 1
3	4043	HAWWAM 6 (C,F,G,S) E Alston 10-9-0	S D Williams 5
4	0-33	PHARLY DANCER 7 (CD,BF,G) W Haigh 7-9-0	Dale Gibson 7
5	4/4-	SENSO 88J J Wainwright 5-9-0	Dean McKeown 4
6	00/0	STYLISH GENT 4 (F,G) G Oldroyd 9-9-0	A Colgan (7) 2
7	4-04	GREENWICH AGAIN 34 (F,G) T Mills 4-8-11	J Fortune 8
8	240-	KINDRED GREETING 179 (B) D Morris 4-8-11	R Cochrane 3

6-4 Pharly Dancer, 3-1 El Nido, 4-1 Hawwam, 5-1 Greenwich Again, 12-1 others.

4.35 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER CHALLENGE SERIES FINAL (Handicap: £4,026: 1m) (6)

1	11-2	CASHMERE LADY 28 (D,BF,G) J Eyre 4-10-0	R Lappin 3
2	35-1	TATIKA 14 (CD,G) G Wragg 6-9-13	G Milligan (7) 4
3	1122	KINGCHIP BOY 6 (V,CD,BF,F,G) M Ryan 7-9-4	T Ives 6
4	1114	CHINA CASTLE 17 (C,D,G) P Haslam 3-8-9	J Fortune 1
5	3-20	MISLEMANI 6 (G) A Newcombe 6-8-6	D R McCabe (3) 2
6	00-6	PALACEGATE JO 35 (C,D,G,S) D Chapman 5-8-2	P Fessey (5) 5

9-4 Tatika, 5-2 Kingchip Boy, 3-1 Cashmere Lady, 5-1 China Castle, 12-1 Mislemani, 16-1 Palacegate Jo

هكذا في الاصل

Ireland stand-off half steps up to make his debut at Parc des Princes

Humphreys aims to graduate with honours in France

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THAT David Humphreys will play international rugby for Ireland tomorrow comes as no surprise to those who have followed the young stand-off half's career from its inception. That the breakthrough should have been this season was less obvious since he had moved away from his roots in Belfast to the comparative obscurity of Oxford University.

This is not to say that Oxford is obscure but no Irish selector was likely to appear at Iffley Road last term as the university prepared for the big December day at Twickenham. Yet Humphreys' individual display in a losing cause against Cambridge began the wave that has carried him to his first cap, against France at the Parc des Princes this weekend.

Destiny plays strange tricks. Seven years ago that legend of Irish rugby, Mike Gibson, watched — as he was wont to do and still does — his old school, Campbell College, against Ballymena Academy and was full of admiration for the decision-making of the academy's stand-off. "Nearly every time," Gibson said, "he did what I would have done."

Now Humphreys, 24, is a pupil solicitor with Tughan and Co, the Belfast legal firm in which Gibson is a senior partner, and poised to make his bow in the five nations' championship in the position Gibson occupied on 25 occasions. All Ireland will hope he can display the same maturity in a position which is something of a poisoned chalice. Since Paul Dean's career ended in 1989, eight players have worn the No 10 shirt as the selectors search for the next Ollie Campbell, Tony Ward, Gibson or Jackie Kyle.

Clive Woodward, Humphreys' coach at London Irish, has no worry on that score. "He's a gem," Woodward, the former England centre, said. It says something about his approach to the game that, when asked to debate the strengths of his game, Humphreys offers the belief that he should bring the best out of his back division. No stress on individual skills, the tactical direction and dazzling little runs he brings to the game, but on the collective quality of his colleagues.

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Humphreys grew up the oldest of five children in the village of Broughshane, just outside Ballymena, and played football until his departure for Ballymena Academy where rugby was the traditional game and where the great Willie-John McBride studied. His greatest encouragement came from his father, George, who has watched all but a handful of his games. The family will be divided at the weekend, however, since Karen, his sister — ahead in caps having played hockey 18 times for her country — is appearing for Ulster.

David's first appearance for Ulster, in 1992, came while he was studying law at Queen's University, Belfast, and hinted strongly at an equable sporting temperament: Thomond Park, Limerick, is no place for faint hearts and Humphreys came on as a replacement when Munster led 11-3 and Ulster, perennial provincial champions, were fading.

Two penalty goals and a dropped goal by the 5ft 9in youngster won the match and A caps followed against Wales — when he scored 19 points in an astounding 29-28 win at Newport — and England. He toured southern Africa in 1993, before a hiatus.

"It was a combination of circumstances," Humphreys said. "I finished at university, I started work and I played for Ballymena where the style was totally different from Queen's. Although that was division-four rugby, it was a good, open game, whereas in club rugby we had a much stronger pack and there was always the fear of dropping vital league points."

Ireland had discovered Eric Elwood and two other young players, Paul Burke and Alan McGowan, were on the horizon. Humphreys left home for Oxford where he is on a one-year special diploma course in social studies at St Cross College: "Oxford has been the springboard for this year," he said. "It's the first time I have been properly fit, playing or training every day.

"I was taking a risk but I knew there would be different players from different countries and a different style. When I arrived, international ambitions were a long way off and all I wanted to do was to fit into the university side and get a blue. Because the University match [in which Humphreys scored all Oxford's 19 points] went well, the gamble has paid off."

It earned him a place in the A international against Scotland last month but the clinching appearance was on January 31. The Irish selectors flocked to Ravenhill to see Ulster play New South Wales and within five minutes, Humphreys had scored a brilliant solo try reminiscent, for older spectators, of the great Kyle. Humphreys has no doubts that the 40-33 win represented the best rugby the province has played during his career.

"I'm delighted to have played at Twickenham in front of such a big crowd because that will help prepare me for Paris," Humphreys, who will be Ireland's first-choice goalkicker tomorrow, said. "But I take each game on its merits and I really enjoy the big occasions. Murray Kidd [the Ireland coach] has told us to go out and attack the French, rather than opt for a policy of containment, and that has always been my aim.

"I think I have been selected to use the outstanding backs that we have, who are as good as any others around." Ireland have not performed well in Paris since 1980, but maybe Humphreys can be the catalyst for change.

☐ Simon Geoghegan failed a fitness test on his troubled hamstring yesterday. His place on the right wing for Ireland goes to Richard Wallace, of Garryowen.

Ireland hope Humphreys can follow in the footsteps of Kyle, Campbell and Gibson

Kenyans could teach England a thing or two

England's cack-handed performance in the field at Ahmedabad on Wednesday rightly earned them widespread contempt. "There must be much better pairs of hands in inter-school cricket than this bunch of Englishmen," the *Indian Express* declared yesterday. In fact there are — and three of them are in the Kenya team who make their debut in the competition on Sunday.

The three schoolboys — who include Thomas Odayo, the youngest player in the tournament at the age of 17 — had to ask for time off from class in order to take part, but they are not in need of lessons in fielding.

"This Kenya team has incredible reactions," Peter Lever, the former Lancashire bowler and technical mentor of Devon Malcolm, said yesterday. Lever coached Kenya for a month before the tournament. "The ball bobbles like hell on their outfields in Nairobi. It will jump two or three yards in front of you and hit you on the forearm. But in the four practice games they played against Holland I did not see them fumble it once.

"The less said the better about those four catches England dropped. Three of them should have been swallowed. But England are tired. They needed those seven one-dayers in South Africa like a hole in the head."

Simon Wilde's WORLD CUP EXTRAS

To bat or . . .

Today's match at Hyderabad will be the first of the tournament to be completed under floodlights. But should the winners of the toss elect to bat in daylight or under the lights? Research shows that teams batting first in day-night internationals have a 60 per cent chance of winning, even though it is widely accepted that there is an advantage to knowing what you are chasing in limited-overs cricket. Nine other matches are scheduled as day-night fixtures, including the semi-finals and the final, but do not count on anything: they are still putting up the lights in Bangalore, Madras and Chandigarh.

Brian Lara, the West Indies batsman, knocks out a new bat in anticipation of a long knock against Zimbabwe today

One-day woes

Why are England so poor at one-day cricket? Too many Test matches, that is why. It has been a long-standing — and originally creditable — policy of the Test and County Cricket Board to resist the rest of the world's infatuation with one-day matches, but the time may have come for change.

Dennis Amiss, Warwickshire's chief executive, thinks so. "It is only a personal view but I would like to see England play five matches in a one-day series. I think the public would like it. I believe it will not affect our five-day cricket and it provides some of the most exciting cricket you could wish to see," he said.

The TCCB has pushed the boat out by arranging six matches against India and Pakistan this summer but Terry Blake, the board's marketing manager, said yesterday: "We have not gone along with the proliferation of one-day internationals in the past and this year is an exception to our usual policy. Next year we will be back to three matches against Australia."

Since the last World Cup, England have played fewer one-day internationals than all other Test-playing countries except Zimbabwe.

That's Hall, folks

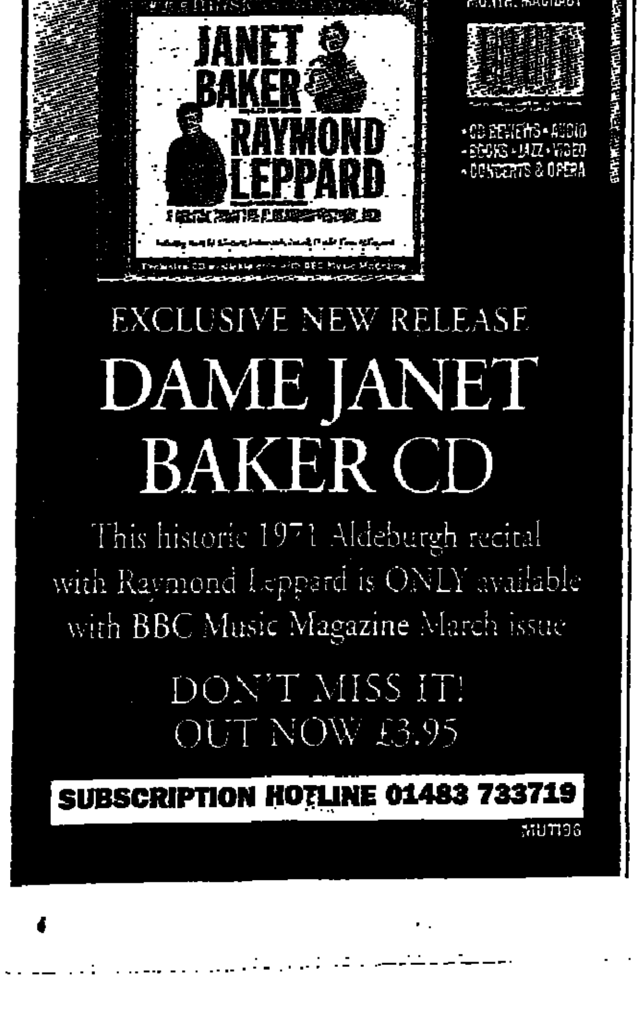
Disregarding fears of terrorist violence, Zimbabwe are to go ahead with their match in Sri Lanka next Wednesday. "At the moment we are not changing our mind, we are still playing in Sri Lanka," Andy Flower, their captain, said. Wes Hall, the West Indies manager, had some scathing words to say yesterday about people who do not change their minds. "Henry Kissinger said that only an idiot could not change his mind," he said, before adding: "But as far as we are concerned the West Indies Board of Control says we are still not going."

Poison pens

Security guards have been on their toes in Ahmedabad, where journalists were refused admittance to practice sessions after being categorised as "likely assassins". This may be true, but many of them regard it as an integral part of their jobs.

Bleak outlook

England will be watching the weather in Peshawar, where they are due to play their banker match against the United Arab Emirates on Sunday, with an anxious eye. There was heavy rain there on Wednesday, which left the outfield sodden, and although the sun shone yesterday morning, the forecast is for more rain. If the annual rainfall charts are anything to go by, the likeliest venues for rain are perhaps Chandigarh and Calcutta — where both semi-finals will be staged.



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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Igls	0	20	fair	varied	closed	cloud	-1	14/2
(Stubai glacier in excellent shape with new snow)								
Saalbach	30	55	good	powder	fair	sun	-3	15/2
(Good piste skiing on fresh snow: all lifts open)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	110	220	good	powder	good	sun	-11	13/2
(Faultless ski conditions, resort busy)								
Avoriaz	170	210	good	varied	good	sun	-4	14/2
(Fabulous skiing conditions: brilliant sunshine)								
La Tania	70	140	good	powder	good	sun	-12	14/2
(Excellent skiing on packed powder all links open)								
Val Thorens	120	200	good	powder	good	fine	-5	14/2
(Great skiing on powdery snow no queues)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	100	300	good	powder	good	sun	-8	13/2
(Perfect snow and weather conditions: great skiing)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	80	190	good	powder	good	sun	-3	13/2
(Perfect skiing conditions)								
Grindelwald	30	100	good	powder	fair	fair	-2	13/2
(All areas in excellent condition: few skiers about)								
Klosters	30	120	good	powder	good	fine	0	14/2
(Excellent skiing on and off-piste kublis run open)								
Mürren	55	160	good	powder	good	fair	-6	15/2
(Wonderful conditions: possible to ski to Lauterbrunnen)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper. art - artificial.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *40*

AUTO-DA-FÉ

(c) The burning of a heretic, as ordered by the Inquisition. Literally in Spanish "an act of faith". Originally the term applied to the ceremony accompanying the pronouncement of judgment by the ecclesiastical authorities, after which the victim was handed over to the secular authorities for actual ignition. Gradually the horrid burning came to be referred to as the auto-da-fé itself. Now that the auto-da-fé has been replaced, as an instrument for maintaining the Roman Catholic Church, by the equally incendiary Vatican television and internet bureau, the nearest thing to the auto-da-fé occurs at barbecues. The host performs an act of immolation. The act of faith is on the part of the guests.

NULLIBIETY

(b) The state of being nowhere. This is a word for which it would on first inspection appear difficult to conceive any practical or indeed impractical use. But no incomprehensible word can be entirely useless. "And in conclusion, James, on behalf of all your old colleagues here, may I heartily wish you an unimpaired nullibiety."

ENCHIRIDON

(c) A posh Greek word for a handbook, from something that can be held in the hand. "I admire your new car a lot, Mary Ann. But if I were you, I should pay close attention to the enchiridon."

LUMBRICOID

(c) Like an earthworm, by, with, to, from or pertaining to an earthworm. "I respect your ambitions as a body-builder, Stewart. But as a lover, you are just too lumbricoid."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Kc2! leads to mate after 1 ... Kf6 2 Qa1, 1 ... Ke4 2 Re7 or 1 ... Kd5 2 Rb5.

RADIO CHOICE

All-American midnight feast

An American in London. *Radio 3, midnight.*

To be pedantic, John McGlinn's series is not about one American in London but four, all of them top-drawer tunesmiths. McGlinn devotes parts one and two to Jerome Kern, dividing parts three and four between Gershwin, Cole Porter and Richard Rodgers. The focus throughout is on the shows the Famous Four composed initially for the London stage. Subsequently they went to Broadway, considerably amended. Tonight's late-night (too late, surely) feast features Kern's *The Cabaret Girl* and *Blue Eyes*. P.G. Wodehouse wrote the lyrics for *The Cabaret Girl*. Characteristic of his showbiz unorthodoxy was the couplet: "I see my roses have been nibbled by greenfly and I'd/suggest you go and mix some arsenic or cyanide."

Lunchtime Concerto. *Classic FM, 2.00pm.*

Here is a poser I offer gratis to any compiler of music quiz questions who may be desperate for one: which Beethoven second movement opens with the first six notes of *Danny Boy*? You can hear the answer this afternoon. It is the andante from the Triple Concerto, Op 56. The soloists are Eugene Istomin, piano, Isaac Stern, violin, and Leonard Rose, cello. Another Eugene, Ormandy, conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra. Unbelievably, the work was cold-shouldered by the audience at its first performance. Nothing to do with Beethoven, though. The soloists just could not agree on whether they were supposed to play as a trio or as three soloists.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson. Incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Dave Pearce, incl at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat, **6.15** The Net and at **6.30** The Mix **7.00** Essential Selection **10.00** John Peel with Grifters in session **1.00am** Radio 1 Rap Show

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Martin Kelner **7.30** Sarah Kennedy **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Judi Spiers **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Speaking Volumes **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night live from the White Rock Theatre in Hastings **9.30** Listen to the Band **10.00** Summer Starts Here: Radio 2 Arts Programme. **12.05am** Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes **1.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl **6.55**, **7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck; and at **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra **7.35** Alan Green's Sportstalk **8.35** Off Piste **9.05** American Graffiti **9.35** Stop Press **10.05** Entertainment Superhighway **11.00** Night Extra, incl at **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00-6.00am** Mike Dickin

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Surviving **8.00** News **8.10** Faith **8.15** Music Review **9.00** News in German **9.15** Faith **9.45** Sports **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Meridian **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Science **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack: Alternative **3.00** News in German **3.15** Music Review **4.00** News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News Summary **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** Multitrack: Alternative **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** The Legacy of Colonialism **11.45** The Farming World **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30am** From the Weeklies **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** Seven Days **1.30** Jazz Now and Then **1.45** Good Books **2.00** Newsday **2.30** People **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Vintage Chart Show **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Jazz **4.45** Seven Days

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto See Choice **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Classic Verdict **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Robert Booth

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Including Sheppard (Mass: The Western Wynde); Sibelius (Violin Concerto in D minor); Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in D); Puccini (Wedding Night, *Madame Butterfly*); Graham Fitkin (Hard Fairy); Weber (Konzerstück in F minor)
9.00 Morning Collection with Catriona Young. Berlioz (Overture; Entr'acte, Béatrice et Bénédict); Liszt (Venezia e Napoli, Années de pèlerinage); Howells (Concerto for string orchestra)
10.00 Musical Encounters. Including Nyman (The Draughtsman's Contract); **10.20** *Artist of the Week*: Nicholas Daniel, oboe. Strauss Oboe Concerto); **11.05** Françaix (Wind Quintet No 1); Lutoslawski (Five Dance Preludes); Prokofiev (Symphony No 1 in D, Classical)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Irving Berlin. Excerpts from *Annie Get Your Gun*
1.00pm Chamber Music from Manchester live from the Concert Hall, New Broadcasting House: Emma Kirkby, soprano, Peter Seymour, fortepiano. C.P.E. Bach (Am neuen Jahre; Dieses un jenes Leben; Empfindungen einer Sommernacht; Tag und Nacht); Mozart (Die ihr des unermesslichen Weltalls Schöpfer ehrt); C.P.E. Bach (Fantasia in C); Pinto (Eloise to Abelard); Haydn (Piercing Eyes; The Spirit's Song; O Tuneful Voice); Schubert (Du bist die Ruh; Frühlingsglaube; Die Forelle)
2.00 Schools. Let's Make a Story **2.15** Music Box **2.30** Dance Workshop **2.50** Poetry Corner
3.00 Mining the Archive. Janet Baker, mezzo, at the 1971 Aldeburgh Festival
4.20 By the Waters of Babylon. The Rev Alan Walker visits the Coptic Orthodox church near Kensington High Street (7/9)
4.30 Lost Musicians of Central Asia. Uzbek ethnomusicologist Razia Sultanova talks to John Thornley about the musical and cultural traditions of Bokhara, Tashkent and Samarkand
5.00 The Music Machine with Eleanor Alberga (r)
5.15 In Tune. Including Czerny (Variations brillantes); Gesualdo, compl Stravinsky (Tres sacrae cantiones)
7.30 I Like to Be in America! live from the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow. The first of three concerts from the Festival of American Music and Arts. Kalichstein/Laredo/Robinson Trio, Robin Williams, oboe, with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, under Yoel Levi. Ives (The Unanswered Question); Copland (Quiet City; Appalachian Spring); **8.20** The Wayward with Bob Gilmore; **8.40** Barber (Canzonetta); Ellen Taaffe Zwilich (Triple Concerto)
9.30 Towards Musical Democracy. How the composer Frank Denyer draws on musical traditions from around the world
9.55 Hear and Now. Robert Ziegler in conversation with Tan Dun
12.00-1.00am An American in London. See Choice

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing, incl weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30**, **7.00**, **7.30**, **8.00**, **8.30** News **6.55**, **7.55** Weather **7.25**, **8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Sue Lawley talks to writer Susan Hill (r)
9.45 Feedback, presented by Chris Dunkley
10.00-10.30 News; Foreign Correspondence (FM only). Washington. Bridget Kendall traces the history of her adopted city through writings of earlier visitors (1/5) (r)
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour introduced from Manchester by Sheila McClennon. Serial: *Cause Celeb* by Helen Fielding, abridged by Jane Marshall. Read by Jennifer Ehle (7/12)
11.30 The Natural History Programme
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm The Food Programme. Derek Cooper takes a look at food regulations **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; Classic Serial: His Masterpiece by Emile Zola (1/2) (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift with Laurie Taylor
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow reassess the work of the Victorian artist Lord Leighton. Plus a review of *The Government Inspector* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse
4.45 Short Story: Just Depending by Jenny Boston. Read by Thora Hird (r)
5.00 PM with Jon Sopel and Jackie Hardgrave **5.50** Shipping **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places with David Stafford
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week, with Christopher Serle
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby chairs a topical discussion at the University of Salford. On the panel are Mike Heath, director general of the Engineering Council; Simon Heffer of the *Daily Mail*; environmentalist Sir Jonathon Porritt; and Baroness Shirley Williams, Liberal Democrat peer
8.50 Law in Action with Marcel Berlins
9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke
9.30 Kaleidoscope Feature. The success story of the television series *Star Trek* (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Ghost Horse of Genghis Kahn by Russell Hoban. Read by David Horovitch
11.00 Week Ending. News satire with Sally Grace, Jeffrey Holland and Toby Longworth
11.25 Fourth Column
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00 News, incl **12.27am** Weather
12.30 The Late Book: The Courter by Salman Rushdie. Read by Sam Dastor (3/3)
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

Mismatched music guilty of sonic insecticide

REVIEW

Lynne Truss

There is, of course, a logical explanation for the extraordinarily intrusive music in last night's new insect series **Alien Empire** (BBC1). Scripts were mixed up in the post, that's all. The script received by composer Martin Kiszko was a mixed-genre space-age western three-hanky job, and he slaved away in isolation under a complete misapprehension until — too late! — the mistake was discovered. "What shall we do?" panicked the Natural History Unit, buzzing like flies, and flapping the score with invisible speed, like a bee's wing. "Just put it in the programme: Joe Public won't notice a thing!"

And so they persuaded themselves, and finally forgot there was ever a problem. They sat in viewing rooms, watching the sequence where the luminescence of the jewel beetle was displayed against music headed "Boy Confederate Soldier Returns on Crutches across Corn Field to the Shack of his Now-Blind Ma", and told themselves, "It's all right. Actually, it's quite all right."

But it wasn't. Whereas everything on the screen in *Alien Empire* is absorbingly interesting, everything on the soundtrack is awful. The script is delivered by John Shrapnel at his most bass and serious, and it has a habit of likening insects to machines which is irritating and reductive. ("The brain of a bee," intones Shrapnel, "a masterpiece of micro circuitry.") And then, just when you think you can watch some insects doing insect-y things, cinematic melody floods in like syrup, as the string section of the Munich Symphony Orchestra (nothing less) turns the page to find, "Mary Brings Teddy to have his Knee Kissed Better".

Perhaps Ceefax is the answer, though I have been wary of using subtitles ever since watching the damage done to a *Horizon* about an obscure salmon-type fish called (I think) a "eulocanth", when the Ceefax operator assumed the word was "hooligan", which is not the same. I will never forget the surreal image: "The hooligan, desperate to reach its mating ground, now leaps upstream." I therefore hesitate to recommend this course. But the histrionics in *Alien Empire* are turned up too loud. Watching Ceefax with the sound off may be the only way of reducing the impact.

Still, *Alien Empire* was pretty unsettling for good reasons as well as bad. Insects have lived on this planet for 400 million years: they regard the human race as fly-by-nights. And when you start to look at their biology, they are seriously weird and otherworldly: they need oxygen but don't have lungs; they have teensy brains yet they process images at phenomenal speeds. To a housefly, television pictures are not continuous but a succession of individual lines travelling up-screen. To such a quick-thinking insect, therefore, the job of television critic would be irksome and it would pronounce all programmes too slow. Next time you see a fly buzzing frantically against an open window, it will be worth remembering all this.

After such a jolt to one's perceptions, ordinary programmes looked peculiar too. And it didn't help that BBC2's **Three Colours Cézanne** was concerned with the early part of the painter's career, when he, likewise, seemed to be visiting from another world. True, Cézanne was up from the country but that was the least of his handicaps: his early work, when not concentrating on nude ugly violence, was still mainly violent or contained nudes. Cézanne had a fierce touch taboo, an authoritarian father, and a penchant for Wagner. He thought once of murdering his family, but luckily remembered (just in time) that they were useful to him, as sitters.

Three Colours Cézanne divides his work chronologically into pink, green and blue: an ingenious and simple basis for the series. Last night's film was literate and informative, although occasionally fell into the trap of many art programmes: a critic describes a detail in a picture, and his words are immediately contradicted by the picture itself. Last night it was Cézanne's *The Rape*, in which the female figure was described as "this poor woman, screaming". Upon which a close-up silently revealed she was limp and comatose, with hardly a mouth at all.

Finally, Channel 4's **Food File** has a campaign for us all to join. It's called "Adopt a Veg" and if it sounds nuts to you, it certainly sounded nuts to me. Evidently there is "havoc" in the vegetable kingdom, these days; varieties of veg are disappearing fast, and the only way to conserve them is to send urgent money to the Henry Doubleday Research Association, where seeds are preserved in an archive. "Stop the Vegetable Massacre!" is the rallying call. The champions are Nigel Slater (cookery writer) and Thelma Barlow from *Coronation Street*. And personally, I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

I mean, can't they see where all this will lead? Once vegetables are understood to be a persecuted minority, insanity prevails. People caught using the innocent expression "small potatoes" are hauled up for veg-ism. When Bogart, in *Casablanca*, makes that speech about the hill of beans, audiences tut-tut and suck their teeth, making no allowance for the primitive veg attitudes prevailing in wartime. Sensitive types flock to buy copies of *The Lady of Shalott*, but are horribly disappointed when it turns out to centre on a madwoman with a mirror. Word gets round: Alfred Lord Tennyson does not know his onions.

Meanwhile, it was not explained what happens when you adopt a veg. Perhaps you get a photograph. But it seems unlikely that it writes to you from time to time, to tell you how it's getting on.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (21784)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (52055)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (4983887) **9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook** (s) (3064622) **9.45 Kilroy** (s) (7392626) **10.30 Good Morning** (s) (61149)

12.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (6851603)

12.05pm Turnabout (s) (9239871) **12.30 Going for a Song** (s) (46351)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (55142)

1.30 Regional News (77379968)

1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (34157055) **2.00 Pebble Mill** (s) (9506806) **2.40 Moon over Miami** (Ceefax) (s) (4708581)

3.30 The Littlest Pet Shop (s) (5816974) **3.50 Look Sharp!** (s) (1160784) **4.05 The All New Popeye Show** (r) (2367500) **4.15 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde** (Ceefax) (s) (5306413) **4.30 The Mask** (Ceefax) (s) (3317559) **4.55 Newsround Extra: The Children of Chernobyl** (Ceefax) (1884245) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (1456142)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (541448)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (535)

6.30 Regional news magazines (887)

7.00 Gag Tag. Bob Monkhouse hosts the quiz for stand-up comics (Ceefax) (s) (9661)

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Includes a look at the pioneering facility which the Metropolitan Police are using to test protective knife-proof vests, plus a new technique for treating previously inoperable tumours with a low-energy light beam (Ceefax) (s) (871)

8.00 Just Good Friends. Penny and Vince make a surprise announcement (r) (Ceefax) (2581)

8.30 A Question of Sport. David Coleman fires the questions at Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham and their teams of sporting celebrities (Ceefax) (s) (4516)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2326)

9.30 Into the Fire. The conclusion of Tony Marchant's story. Michael Ride has resigned from his job but he has not given up his quest for justice, and Lyn learns of Frank's crime. (Ceefax) (s) (60061) **N.I.: 9.30** PK Tonight **10.20** Into the Fire **11.20** FILM: The Fly **12.55-2.05am** FILM: It Conquered the World (1956)

10.30 FILM: The Fly (1986) starring Jeff Golbum and Geena Davis. David Cronenberg's repulsively entertaining remake of the cult 1950s horror movie. A scientist obsessed with teleportation takes part in one of his own experiments with dire consequences (Ceefax) (s) (23246784) **WALES: 10.30** All Our Lives **11.20** FILM: The Fly **12.55-2.20am** FILM: Twins of Evil

12.05 FILM: Twins of Evil (1971) starring Peter Cushing and Madeleine and Mary Collinson. Identical twin orphans move in with their witch-hunting uncle, who lives in the shadow of a sinister castle where, legend has it, vampires dwell. Directed by John Hough (6845814)

1.30am Weather (6108659)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Biology — Body Plans (2874245) **6.25** What is Music? (2780852) **6.50** Panel Painting (5988806)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (s) (8295974) **7.30 Stingray** (r) (46448) **8.00 F.O.T.** (r) (s) (13535) **8.30 Johnson and Friends** (r) (s) (1105158)

8.40 The Record (9193087)

9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, **10.00-10.25** Playdays (5255852)

2.00 Johnson and Friends (r) (s) (36365784) **2.10 Open View** (10739055)

2.15 Sport on Friday. The World Indoor Bowls championship and the World Skiing championships (233245) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (1859887)

4.00 Today's the Day. History quiz (s) (500)

4.30 World Indoor Bowls (13719)

6.00 The Munsters (b/w). Classic ghoulish humour. (Ceefax) (447239)

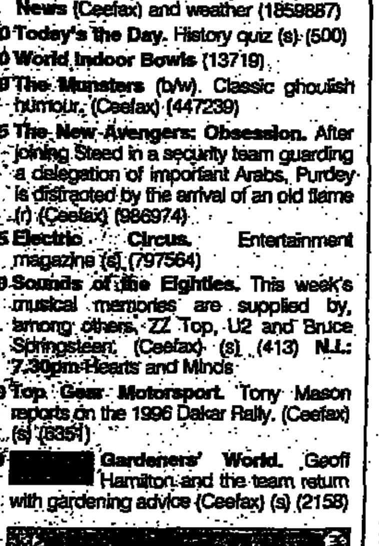
6.25 The New Avengers: Obsession. After joining Steed in a security team guarding a delegation of important Arabs, Purdey is distracted by the arrival of an old flame (r) (Ceefax) (986974)

7.15 Electric Circus. Entertainment magazine (s) (797564)

7.30 Sounds of the Eighties. This week's musical memories are supplied by, among others, ZZ Top, U2 and Bruce Springsteen. (Ceefax) (s) (413) **N.I.: 7.30pm** Hearts and Minds

8.00 Top Gear Motorsport. Tony Mason reports on the 1996 Dakar Rally. (Ceefax) (s) (8351)

8.30 **Gardeners' World.** Geoff Hamilton and the team return with gardening advice (Ceefax) (s) (2158)



Paul Whitehouse as Brilliant (9.00pm)

9.00 **The Fast Show.** New seven-part comedy sketch show with Paul Whitehouse (Ceefax) (s) (3526)

9.30 Red Dwarf VI. Science-fiction comedy (r) (Ceefax) (s) (31429)

10.00 Fist of Fun. A second series of the comedy show starring Stewart Lee, Richard Herring, Peter Baynham and Kevin Eldon (s) (17351)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (615177)

11.15 Fantasy Football League. David Baddiel and Frank Skinner are joined by Neil Morrissey and Alan Davies (s) (698239) **WALES: 11.15** Wales 2006 — the Culture (589448) **11.55** Fantasy Football League (799968) **12.25am** Seinfeld (5053017) **12.50** The Smell of Reeves and Mortimer (7576388) **1.20** Weather (1774098) **1.25-2.25** World Indoor Bowls (8446562)

11.45 The Smell of Reeves and Mortimer. Vic and Bob link cottage cheese and voodoo; and their own *Stars in Their Eyes* (r) (Ceefax) (s) (680210)

12.15am Weather (7559611)

12.20-1.25 World Indoor Bowls (9308456)

CHOICE

Gardeners' World
BBC2, 8.30pm

Many thousands of people visit Vita Sackville-West's Sissinghurst each year but this superb Kent garden has been curiously neglected by the small screen. Gay Search, a presenter of quiet authority, makes amends with a location report. She looks back on the creation of the garden during the 1930s and talks to Sarah Cook, today's head gardener, about maintaining Sackville-West's legacy in the face of the huge annual invasion from Britain and abroad. After that Nick Wray's attempt to interest us in a garden in suburban Croydon may seem like an anti-climax, though it offers a spectacular display. Binding together this first in the new series of *Gardeners' World* is the avuncular Geoff Hamilton. The middle of February may not be prime time for jobs in the garden, but trust Geoff to find some.

The Fast Show
BBC2, 9.00pm

Fast this comedy sketch series certainly is, since no item is on the screen long enough to outstay its welcome and some are little more than one-liners. But there is wit as well as speed. Apart from a gangster spoof called *The Unpronounceables*, the show eschews the relatively easy option of sending up other people's material and rolls its own. The humour essentially derives from guying a range of familiar types. Those who saw the first series will welcome the return of Janine the teenage mum, Ron the rambling football manager and Alf the accident-prone pensioner. But there are many new characters this time. Paul Whitehouse and Charlie Higson dominate the credits, as performers, writers and producers, but *Mrs Merton* fans can amuse themselves spotting the various guises of Caroline Hook.

Catherine Cookson's The Girl
ITV, 9.00pm

Hannah (played by a promising young actress, Siobhan Flynn) is the archetypal Catherine Cookson heroine, born out of wedlock and abandoned by her father, abused and ostracised as a child and forced into a miserable marriage. But Cookson characters are destined to suffer, if only to demonstrate their resilience. A three-parter by an experienced Cookson adapter, Gordon Hann, the tale is set in Northumberland in the middle of the 19th century. It is both about the imposition of stern Victorian morality and departures from it. Either way, women such as Hannah are the victims. Perhaps that is why Cookson, despite setting her stories in the past, has such a modern ring. Television has again done justice to a writer who combines the hot blood of melodrama with cunning narrative skill.

Roseanne: The Fifties Show
Channel 4, 10.00pm

To take a long established sit-com and relocate it, even for one episode, in the 1950s requires wit as well as courage. The makers of *Roseanne* fortunately have both in large measure. The result, shot in appropriate black and white, is a brilliant pastiche of those anodyne middle-class comedies, set in spotless homes where dutiful wives attended to mollycoddled husbands and teenage rebellion meant no more than trying to stay out later than 10 o'clock at night. The abrasive, wise-cracking Roseanne of the 1990s transforms herself into the 1950s little woman, resigned to a life of cooking and cleaning and never caught without a smile and a pinny. Besides parodying the television comedies of the era the show also sends up its commercials with precision. It even works in a joke about a little black boy called Colin Powell.

Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2368516)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (3976413)

9.55 London Today (Teletext) (5345429)

10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (1596448)

10.35 This Morning (15374055)

12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6857887)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3191622)

12.55 Murder, She Wrote (s) (8276622)

2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (57659142)

2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (57741177)

2.50 The Good Health Guide (3465500)

3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (2875719)

3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2867790)

3.30 Rosie and Jim (s) (1248516) **3.45 Zzzap!** (1163871) **4.00 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries** (1856790) **4.25 Gladiators: Train to Win** (Teletext) (1866177) **4.55 Get This** (s) (1706413)

5.10 A Country Practice (s) (8299158)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (987871)

6.00 Home and Away. Kelly's sister accuses her of letting her boyfriend die (r) (Teletext) (s) (530993)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (537326)

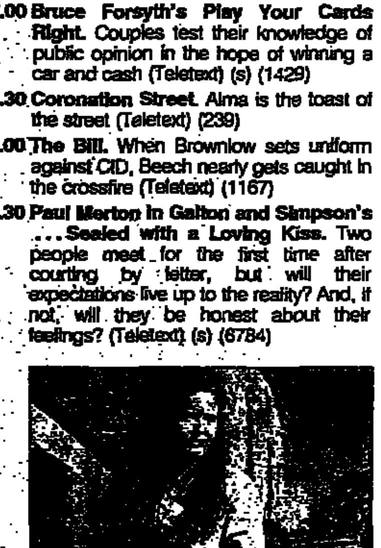
6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (400968)

7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right. Couples test their knowledge of public opinion in the hope of winning a car and cash (Teletext) (s) (1429)

7.30 Coronation Street. Alma is the toast of the street (Teletext) (239)

8.00 The Bill. When Brownlow sets uniform against CID, Beech nearly gets caught in the crossfire (Teletext) (1167)

8.30 Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's . . . Sealed with a Loving Kiss. Two people meet for the first time after courting by letter, but will their expectations live up to the reality? And, if not, will they be honest about their feelings? (Teletext) (s) (6784)



Siobhan Flynn as Hannah (9.00pm)

9.00 **Catherine Cookson's the Girl** (Teletext) (s)

10.00 News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (11177)

10.30 Regional News and Weather (727581)

10.40 Entertaining Mr Wedlock (637448)

11.10 Kojak (434429)

12.30 Hotel Babylon (s) (3389098)

1.10 The Good Sex Guide . . . Late (s) (8444104)

2.10 FILM: Nightwalk (1989) starring Robert Urich, Lesley-Anne Down and Mark Joy. After witnessing a murder on a secluded stretch of beach a woman becomes the next target of a professional hit man. Directed by Jerold Freedman (220475)

3.50 Live from London (r) (s) (9437098)

5.00 On the Live Side (66122)

5.30 Morning News (29291)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:

2.50pm-3.20 The Really Helpful Programme (3465500)

6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (609968)

10.40 Friday Live (806790)

11.40 Hunter (472719)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 Coronation Street (3003413)

1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (84575887)

1.55 Home and Away (74262528)

2.25 Wish You Were Here...? (57732429)

2.55-3.20 Cat Crazy (9427546)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8299158)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (43210)

10.40 Film: Who's Harry Crumb? (42313177)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (3003413)

1.25 Chain Letters. Word game with Vince Henderson (84575887)

1.55 A Country Practice (34234158)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8299158)

6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (609968)

10.40 Central Weekend (81455784)

12.40am Hotel Babylon (3378982)

1.20 The Good Sex Guide... Late (8441017)

2.20 The Chart Show (2685727)

3.15 Dear Nick (4509814)

4.10 Jobfinder (3247272)

5.20 Asian Eye (1912630)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 Chain Letters (3003413)

1.25 Home and Away (84575887)

1.55 A Country Practice (34234158)

5.10 Home and Away (8299158)

5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Your Story (179326)

6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (43210)

10.40 Meridian Focus (637448)

11.10 Tales from the Crypt (469055)

11.35 War of the Worlds (941264)

5.00am Freescreen (66122)

S4C

Starts: 6.35 Think Tank (5889581) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (41993) **9.00 Fifteen to One** (25326) **9.30 Schools: Eureka** (6274023) **9.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (1224528) **10.00 Fourways Farm** (3957784) **10.10 Eurokids** (8384061) **10.25 The Technology Programme** (8389516) **10.40 Off Limits** (9882974) **11.05 Backtracks** (7865239) **11.20 Stage One** (7942332) **11.35 Schools at Work** (7323055) **11.40 How We Used to Live** (2496055) **12.00 Sesame Street** (52968) **1.00pm Slot Meithrin** (48852) **1.30 Film: Man Hunt** (39759784) **3.20 Terrytoons** (2784413) **3.30 A Taste of the Caribbean** (531) **4.00 Backdate** (968) **4.30 The Pulse** (852) **5.00 5 Pump: Cracabant** (5189142) **5.15 5 Pump: Syth 96** (8445910) **5.30 Countdown** (332) **6.00 Newyddion** (996535) **6.15 Heno** (414332) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (818603) **7.25 Cefn Gwlad** (5890245) **8.30 Newyddion** (4326) **9.00 Pawb Al Fam** (195806) **9.45 The Spy Who Caught a Cold** (163806) **10.00 Brookside** (19719) **10.30 Jo Brand Through the Cakehole** (897239) **11.05 The Girlie Show** (699784) **11.55 T.F.I. Friday** (766790) **1.00am Beavis and Butt-Head** (7265524) **1.25 Film: How I Won the War** (63886543)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Think Tank (r) (Teletext) (s) (5889581)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (41993)

9.00 Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (25326)

9.30 Schools Eureka! (6274023) **9.45** Stop Look Listen (1224528) **10.00** Fourways Farm (3957784) **10.10** Eurokids (8384061) **10.25** Technology Programme (8389516) **10.40** Off Limits (9882974) **11.05** Backtracks (7865239) **11.20** Stage One (7942332) **11.35** Schools at Work (7323055) **11.40** How We Used to Live (2496055)

12.00 Gardens Without Borders (r) (Teletext) (s) (97090)

12.30pm Sesame Street (s) (20516) **1.30 Camberwick Green** (r) (38332) **2.00 Pete Smith Specialties** (36350852)

2.10 FILM: Seven Days to Noon (1950) starring Olive Stone and Andre Morrell. An oscar-winning script about a nuclear scientist who threatens to blow up London if the government does not pledge to ban the bomb. Directed by John Boulting (Teletext) (975719)

4.00 Backdate (Teletext) (s) (968) **4.30 Countdown** (Teletext) (s) (852)

5.00 Island of Dreams (r) (Teletext) (s) (8142)

6.00pm T.F.I. Friday. Chris Evans presents a putative successor to *Ready Steady Go.* Guests include Simply Red, Blur, Black Grape and Kylie Minogue (s) (41852)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (823351)

7.55 Book Choice. John Walsh reviews the latest edition of *Who's Who.* (Teletext) (s) (599564)

8.00 Gardens Without Borders. Alan Mason arrives in Portugal's Algarve where, in Lisbon's ancient Lumiar district, he goes in search of an 18th-century tiled garden which seems to be a mystery to the locals. (Teletext) (s) (8719)

8.30 Brookside. Jacqui sells her soul, leaving Jimmy devastated (Teletext) (s) (4326)

9.00 Cybill. American sit-com with Cybill Shepherd (Teletext) (s) (1264)

9.30 Rising Damp. Rigsby believes it pays to advertise but a personal ad brings only one reply (r) (Teletext) (53697)

Roseanne, John Goodman (10.00pm)

10.00 **Roseanne: The Fifties Show** (b/w). (Teletext) (s) (19719)

10.30 Jo Brand Through the Cakehole. In the final programme of the series, the comedian targets HRT, soap operas, politically correct banking and Clause Four. (Teletext) (s) (897239)

11.05 The Girlie Show (s) (699784)

11.55 T.F.I. Friday. See 6pm (r) (s) (589968)

1.00am Beavis and Butt-Head. Animation and music videos (s) (7265524)

1.25-3.25 FILM: How I Won the War (1967) John Lennon, Michael Crawford, Roy Kinnear and Michael Hordern head the cast of this send-up of war films directed, at a frantic pace, by Richard Lester (573562)

SATELLITE

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

7.00am Boiled Egg and Soldiers (60871) **8.30** Press Your Luck (3187326) **8.50** The Love Connection (6989993) **9.20** Court TV (4170429) **9.50** The Oprah Winfrey Show (4868535) **10.40** Jeopardy! (1539887) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (6206603) **12.00** Beechy (78974) **1.00pm** The Waltons (87622) **2.00** Geraldo (52581) **3.00** Court TV (4968) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (6389177) **4.15** Undun (2971210) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (1448) **6.00** The Simpsons (2239) **6.30** Jeopardy! (9719) **7.00** Lapd (2177) **7.30** M*A*S*H (8603) **8.00** Just Kidding (5697) **8.30** Coppers (8072) **9.00** Walker, Texas Ranger (31413) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (34500) **11.00** Law and Order (81535) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (2741475) **12.45am** The Untouchables (5124253) **1.30** Sibs (75678) **2.00-6.00** Hit Mix Long Play

SKY NEWS

News on the hour. **6.00am** Sunrise (3709993) **9.30** Century (86993) **10.00** News (55622) **10.30** ABC Nightline (45158) **11.00** World News and Business (95784) **1.30pm** CBS News (83952) **2.30** Parliament Live (2852) **3.30** The Lords (4697) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (75311) **7.30** Sportsline (6245) **8.30** Entertainment (8974) **11.30** CBS News (51806) **12.30am** ABC News (20456) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (86920) **2.30** Worldwide Report (17530) **3.30** The Lords (52122) **4.30** CBS News (47307) **5.30-6.00** ABC News

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Law and Order (1953) (4395581) **7.25 Barry Lyndon (1975)** (56855581) **10.30 A Million to One (1993)** (63554158) **12.10pm Cross My Heart (1990)** (629993) **2.00 Fury at Smugglers' Bay (1960)** (25852) **4.00 Words by Heart (1986)** (3852) **6.00 A Million to One (1993)** (18516) **8.00 Weekend at Bernie's II (1993)** (13061) **10.00 Mindwarp (1991)** (542413) **11.40 Once a Thief (1991)** (871597) **1.30am Just Between Friends (1986)** (397291) **3.20-5.20 Heart of a Child (1994)** (26451765)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Madame X (1966) (1622) **6.00 The Barbarian and the Geisha (1958)** (80158) **8.00 Rooster Cogburn (1975)** (95603) **10.00 The Exorcist III (1990)** (914581) **11.55 The French Connection (1971)** (582326) **1.40-4.10am Anne of the Thousand Days (1969)** (13832920)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am The Little Mermaid (1992) (50210) **7.00 Beauty and the Beast (1992)** (97326) **8.00 Transformers — the Movie (1986)** (47603) **10.00 The Mommy Market (1993)** (95697) **12.00 Cagney and Lacey: The Return (1994)** (64326) **2.00pm Where the Red Fern Grows (1974)** (29622) **4.00 Transformers — the Movie (1986)** (7622) **6.00 Cagney and Lacey: The Return (1994)** (71245) **7.30 UK Top Ten** (8413) **8.00 Takeover: TekLab (1994)** (11603) **10.00 True Romance (1993)** (77722) **12.00 Desperate Remedies (1993)** (252307) **1.35am Shadow of a Doubt (1995)** (299712) **3.10 Diamond Skulls (1989)** (4235678) **4.40 The Mommy Market (1993)** (2462765)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (62613413) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (41609887) **7.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (30129682) **7.30** Ducktales (41474559) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (15025429) **8.30** Adventures in Wonderland (15944500) **9.00** Walt Disney Presents (62795061) **10.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (41527239) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (15037264) **11.00** Muppet Babies (88159326) **11.30** Welcome to Pooh Corner (88150055) **12.00** Quack Attack (15028516) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (40848142) **1.00** Adventures in Wonderland (31579103) **1.30** FILM: Heidi — Part Two (80500239) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (68298332) **4.00** Quack Attack (68111239) **4.30** Ducktales (68206351) **5.00** Cyberstar (52188852) **6.30** Stick with Me, Kid (41243158) **7.30** Eyewitness (68101852) **8.00** FILM: Polly (64845697) **9.30-10.00** Dinosaurs (40931806)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Motors (84210) **9.00** Bobsleigh (21210) **10.00** Alpine Skiing (96264) **10.30** Live Alpine Skiing (82719) **12.00** Formula 1 (24790) **12.30pm** Live Alpine Skiing (43516) **1.30** Eurofun (51332) **2.00** Freestyle Skiing (96993) **3.00** Live Tennis (8509968) **7.00** Live Tennis (29535) **9.00** Alpine Skiing (30264) **9.30** Trickshot (99581) **11.00-12.30am** Rally Raid (43697)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Sports Centre (18803) **7.30** Racing News (24210) **8.00** Scottish FA Cup (34871) **9.00** Cricket World Cup — West Indies v Zimbabwe Live (3677692) **5.00pm** World Wrestling Federation Raw (7264) **6.00** Sky Sports Centre (79784) **7.00** Schoolboy Football (21221177) **8.55** Sports Centre (534682) **9.00** Cricket World Cup (56790) **11.00** Sports Centre (27351) **12.00-2.00am** Schoolboy Football (20320)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00pm Trans World Sport (8791177) **8.00** Basketball — Live (9808413) **10.00** Athletics (8790448) **11.00** Skiff Sailing (2013351) **11.30** Inside the PGA Tour (6867500) **12.00-1.00am** Trans World Sport (9151475)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living World **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kidz TV **5.45** General Christian Entertainment **6.15** Colin Dye/Wake Up Europe **6.45-7.00** Music

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (5115790) **7.55** As the World Turns (3368603) **8.50** Peyton Place (2739177) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (9964784) **10.10-11.00** Another World (5399806)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (2925142) **11.30** American Vacation (5391413) **12.30** Frugal Gourmet Cooks Italian (8877531) **1.00pm** Around the World... in 30 Minutes (3913535) **1.30** Discovering Israel (9227072) **2.00** E Report (6586413) **2.30** Cruising the Globe (1225719) **3.00** Getaway (6678448) **3.30-4.00** Kids Down Under (1220264)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Weapons at War: Fighters (2012622) **5.00** Mysteries of the Bible: Moses at Sinai (6589500) **6.00-7.00** Biography: James Stewart (2271992)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am Swamp Thing (7340123) **1.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (3077369) **2.00** FILM: House of Frankenstein (8223949) **3.30-4.00** Alfred Hitchcock presents (5196659)

Patricia Arquette and Christian Slater (Movie Channel, 10.00pm)

TLC

9.00am True Romance (1719535) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (4187245) **10.00** Two's Country Flashback (8932546) **11.00** The Painted House (5355887) **11.30** DIY (5358516) **12.00** Julia Child (1828871) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (4181061) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (5989826) **1.30** Local Heroes (4180332) **2.00** Dogs with Dunbar (1490142) **2.30** Secret Gardens (1505177) **3.00** Two's Country (1572177) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1500622)

UK GOLD

7.05am Angels (4191500) **7.30** Neighbours (2532500) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (1625142) **8.30** EastEnders (1624413) **9.00** The Bill (1711993) **9.30** The Sullivans (4189603) **10.00** Bergerac (6132664) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (7789808) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (1708429) **12.30pm** Neighbours (4190719) **1.00** EastEnders (3188644) **1.30** The Bill (4182790) **2.00** The Sullivans (1482500) **2.30** Get Some In! (1507535) **3.00** Angels (1574535) **3.30** Eldorado (1406852) **4.00** Casualty (45682055) **5.05** Generation Game (83755803) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (4525264) **6.25** EastEnders (7294239) **7.00** Eldorado (1566516) **7.30** I Woke Up One Morning (1415500) **8.00** Top of the Pops (6041871) **9.00** Thin Air (6134535) **10.00** The Bill (4882871) **10.35** KYTV (3790535) **11.15** FILM: Something Wild (28049429) **1.20am** The Hound of the Baskervilles (7673340) **1.55-3.00** Shopping at Night (63440543)

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (61852) **6.30** Pugwall (89784) **7.00** Ready or Not (11871) **7.30** California Dreams (53626) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (83603) **8.30** Tiny TCC (24365968) **12.30pm** Tiny TCC (45998535) **2.30** Happily Ever After (2210) **3.00** Sonic The hedgehog (7852) **3.30** Oscar's Orchestra (4055) **4.00** California Dreams (9790) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (5974)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Banana Sandwich (81156) **7.00** Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (16245) **7.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (22852) **8.00** Wishbone (34177) **8.30** Rude Dog and the Dweebs (33448) **9.00** Grimmy (44500) **9.30** Clarissa (61719) **10.00** Rugrats (95210) **10.30** Aaahh!!! Real Monsters (40784) **11.00** Rocko (23974) **11.30** Doug (24603) **12.00** Sister Sister (37264) **12.30pm** Pete and Pete (65535) **1.00** Capital Critters (15516) **1.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (64806) **2.00** Wishbone (2719) **2.30** Rude Dog and the Dweebs (5968) **3.00** Count Duckula (8326) **3.30** Mighty Max (8023) **4.00** Rugrats (2448) **4.30** Tales of the Cryptkeeper (1332) **5.00** Sister Sister (3871) **5.30** Odyssey II (9784) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (6697) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (3177)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1596429) **4.30** Paramedics (1412413) **5.00** Classic Wheels (1563429) **6.00** Terra X (1506806) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (9945055) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's World of Strange Powers (1413142) **8.00** Jurassica 2 (6049413) **9.00** Wings (6132177) **10.00** Sunday Drivers (6135264) **11.00** Driving Passions (5274968) **11.30-12.00** Top Marques (6085142)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Man Beast (47994429) **1.15pm** Honey West (4881806) **2.00** The Saint (8084413) **3.00** The Buccaneers (1569603) **3.30** The Adventures of William Tell (1504448) **4.00** FILM: Hobson's Choice (1570719) **6.00** Danger Man (1593332) **6.30** The Gossip Show (8932581) **7.30** The Green Hornet (1417968) **8.00** The Saint (6043239) **9.00** UFO (6129603) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Theatre of Death (5353429)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Benson (6535) **7.30** Family Ties (2051) **8.00** Entertainment Tonight (9055) **8.30** Wings (4790) **9.00** Soap (30210) **9.30** Laverne and Shirley (72871) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (38993) **10.30** Home Court (41413) **11.00** Pursuit of Happiness (42055) **11.30** Bob (97622) **12.00** Working Stiffs (13678) **12.30am** The Odd Couple (66272) **1.00** Wings (62630) **1.30** Soap (19028) **2.00** Laverne and Shirley (13949) **2.30** Entertainment Tonight (92456) **3.00** Home Court (82494) **3.30-4.00** Pursuit of Happiness (16036)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (7615351) **7.00** Kilroy (7700887) **8.00** Esther (6848023) **8.30** Embroidery (7298564) **9.00** Madhur Jaffrey's Indian Cookery (7125089) **9.35** Kate and Allie (2489055) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (8863210) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8867239) **11.55** Food and Drink (7516429) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (5944595) **1.25** Crosswits (6557806) **2.00** Agony Hour (5755087) **3.00** Live at Three (7109142) **4.00** Infatuation UK (9783697) **4.30** Crosswits (6801177) **5.05** Lingo (78387087) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (9859061) **6.00** Bewitched (9866974) **6.30** On the Bed with Paula (6944719) **7.05** Tastes of Wales (6152516) **7.40** The Joker's Wild (9460516) **8.05** The Young and the Restless (1336055) **9.00** FILM: Fatal Judgment (21948790) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (6251069) **11.00** Sylvania Waters (7292806) **11.30-12.00** Sex Life (4200992)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Black Beauty (9697) **5.30** Tintin (790887) **5.55** Batman (340158) **6.30** Catchphrase (7719) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (5061) **7.30** Jake and the Kid (87887) **8.30** Only When I Laugh (2036) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Some Lie and Some Die (11697) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (14784) **11.00** Cats Eyes (27209) **12.00** Jake and the Kid (56494) **1.00am** Batman (35776) **1.30** GP: Out to Pasture (22524) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (59765) **2.30** African Skies (38272) **3.00** GP: Out to Pasture (11920) **3.30** Big Brother Jake (29524) **4.00** African Skies (40017) **4.30-5.00** Black Beauty (29949)

MTV

6.30am The Grind (81142) **7.00** 3 from 1 (9186210) **7.15** Awake on the Wildside (5589061) **8.00** Music Videos (946906) **11.00** Soul (18784) **12.00** Greatest Hits (19326) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (72837784) **2.45** 3 from 1 (2467448) **3.00** Cinematic (7154852) **3.15** Hanging Out (4749264) **4.00** MTV News (2021429) **4.15** Hanging Out (2931852) **4.30** Dial MTV (7332) **5.00** Hanging Out (1055) **5.30** Boom! In the Afternoon (5784) **6.00** Hanging Out (2697) **6.30** Road Rules (9177) **7.00** Greatest Hits (17871) **8.00** Ultimate Collection (33852) **9.30** Beavis and Butt-Head (10055) **10.00** MTV News (927351) **10.15** Cinematic (922806) **10.30** MTV Oddities Featuring the Head (89697) **11.00** Partyzone (58516) **1.00am** Night Videos (7412253)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (3912806) **9.00** Café VH-1 (6231622) **12.00** Heart and Soul (2378546) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (1027054) **2.00** Ten of the Best: Paul Jones (6744603) **3.00** Into the Music (7208887) **6.00** VH-1-2-3: Duran Duran (8707610) **7.00** VH-1 to You (8793535) **8.00** Beatclub 80s (6671535) **8.30** Planet Rock Profiles (6587142) **9.00** Ten of the Best: Crash Test Dummies (8799719) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (8792806) **11.00** Around and Around (3829142) **12.00** The Nightfly Rocks (9159017) **2.00am** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE

Country music from **6am** to **7pm** on satellite, including **5pm** Saturday Nite Dance Ranch **6.00-7.00** Big Ticket

ZEE TV

7.00am Zee Presents.. (43770245) **8.30** Aap Ki Farmaish (15720142) **9.00** Hindi FILM: Ghunghat (68944719) **12.00** Buniyaad (15804158) **12.30pm** Zabaan Sambhal Ke (91043055) **1.00** Hindi FILM Vaapsi Saajan Ki (23829158) **4.00** Manasi (21508531) **4.30** Khel Time (25108595) **5.00** Zee Zone (34894448) **5.30** It's My Show (81147061) **6.30** Zee and U (20158090) **7.00** BBCD (34801784) **7.30** Namaste India (24758054) **8.00** News (34983332) **8.30** Filmi Chakkar (34806239) **9.00-12.00** Hindi FILM Policewala Goonda (63504264)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
7.00pm Your Cheatin' Heart (1964) (91373500) **9.00 Four Eyes and Six Guns (1992)** (29439326) **11.00 Murder Ahoy (1964)** (49388968) **12.45am Kill or Cure (1962)** (58653123) **2.20-5.00 Your Cheatin' Heart (1964)** (25238524)

CNN/QVC

CNN provides 24—hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel.

PERFORMANCE

7.00pm Cendrillon **10.00** Tosca **12.00-2.00am** GRP All Stars and Lee Ritenour

BBC WORLD

News on the hour **8.05am** Question Time **9.25** Q.E.D. **12.15pm** Heart of the Matter **1.15** World Business Report **1.30** Newshour Asia and Pacific **2.25** Tomorrow's World **3.05** Question Time **4.25** Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld **5.15** World Business Report **5.25** Holiday **8.05** Question Time **9.25** Film '96 **12.30am** Newsnight **4.05** Correspondent **5.20** The Late Show

هكذا في الاصل

ATHLETICS 40
MODAHL STARTS TO PUT HER CAREER BACK ON THE ROAD

SPORT

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16 1996

RUGBY UNION 42
IRELAND STAND-OFF GOES IN SEARCH OF HONOURS IN PARIS

England on one-day street to ignominy

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN AHMEDABAD

THE world once deferred to England when it came to one-day cricket. They made the rules, devised the tactics and set the standards, but nobody follows England now. The pack has advanced while the pioneers have stood still and, on all available evidence, England are at risk of a mortifyingly swift exit from the World Cup.

Despite the contingency of bad weather offering unearned points to the United Arab Emirates, England will be hard pressed not to qualify for the last eight. There, it is glibly assumed, anything can happen but, even allowing for the vagaries of limited-overs cricket, the most likely outcome for England is an early flight home.

They approached this tournament with brave words. Rightly so. To have dwelt on their 6-1 defeat in South Africa would have been counter-productive and the management decreed that it was an irrelevance, the aberration of a weary team. Things would be different now, it was said. But they are not different. They are precisely the same.

The performance against New Zealand on Wednesday might have been at Cape Town, Johannesburg or Port Elizabeth last month, it was that predictable. The game was lost in the field, of course, where England were so woeful. Compounding this, however, England's batting and bowling were a mixture of the prosaic and the witless.

To defend it as "reasonable", as Michael Atherton did, is to settle for standards that are inadequate in the present company, standards to which England have clung while the opposition have sailed purposefully past. With Graeme Hick and Dominic Cork nursing injuries, it does not bode well for the time when England must meet the serious contenders.

England's protection of the primacy of Test cricket is laudable, but the endemic disregard for one-day cricket is now damaging national esteem in the sport. It is exemplified by the fact that England has staged only 14 of the 294 one-day internationals since the last World Cup and that only three are planned when Australia tour in the summer of 1997. Elsewhere, the volume is often excessive, but the focus of cricketing minds on the demands of the short game is, in the present environment, highly significant.

The best one-day teams — Australia, India and South Africa — not only field more athletically and accurately than England, which to some degree is the result of more innovative practice, they also bat and bowl with more flair and flexibility. They are equipped to improvise, while England plough down predictable channels, apparently unable to change course when things go wrong. Hence, the batting collapse on Wednesday, once under way, consumed the side as so often it did in South Africa.

Within it, two depressing points were emphasised about key players. Graham Thorpe should by now have the confidence to carry the side through the crucial middle overs but, too often, he bats with no appreciation of the required pace. And Neil Fairbrother, outstanding in the World Cup of four years ago, does not look the same player. Now he meets pressure not with touch and placement but by putting his foot down the pitch and heaving across the line.

England emerged from their hotel for practice yesterday, but it was unimpressive, the motions of a team deflated by defeat and aware of its own deficiencies. Atherton batted in the nets with grim intent, a man struggling with his form but struggling, too, with his own perception of one-day cricket as an inferior entity. Many share his view, but, right now, it is unhelpful.

So, too, is the undeniable generation gap that Raymond Illingworth, the manager, must cross to relate to the methods of play and preparation in modern limited-overs cricket. He has not achieved it thus far, nor is he instinctively inclined to do so. The decision to exclude from the squad Dermot Reeve, whose inventiveness is such a rarity in English cricket, is evidence enough of his suspicion of the exotic.

So, as England took once more to the practice ground, three questions sprang to mind. Can it do any good? Are they doing the right things? And is it even the right players doing them? The answer to all three is probably no.

This event has been plagued. First it was the security issue, then the ridiculed opening ceremony which led to parliamentary demands for the arrest of the organiser and to fears that the Calcutta ground will not recover in time to stage the semi-final. The tournament needed a decent cricketing launch and it has not had it. England's match was tepid, the cricket predictable and the setting bizarre. Scoreboards worked spasmodically and sewage filled the corridors of the main stand. Then, yesterday, rain postponed the scheduled second match in Rawalpindi.

There is a sense that this event is creeping in apologetically. There is an air about England of preparing to creep out again. They have never failed to reach a World Cup semi-final, but it is hard to be optimistic about the retention of the record. Only yesterday, a former England captain, dismayed at what he has seen, sought to place a bet on defeat against the United Arab Emirates on Sunday. It has come to this.

WILLS WORLD CUP 1996

World Cup diary 42

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Decision to ratify title result raises fears over weight

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

TERRY DUNSTAN, the British cruiserweight champion, who was reported to be overweight for his title bout with Dennis Andries on Tuesday at York Hall, Bethnal Green, can keep his title and second notch on the Lonsdale belt.

The British Boxing Board of Control took the unprecedented step at its board meeting on Wednesday of allowing the bout between Dunstan and Andries to stand as a championship contest even though Dunstan was over the cruiserweight limit of 13st 8lb.

The bout was originally to be staged at the London Arena on Saturday, but was moved to York Hall as a result of the Docklands bombing. The boxers had weighed in on Friday but a second weigh-in was held on Monday, when Dunstan was found overweight.

At the time of the postponement on Saturday, John Morris, secretary of the board, told the boxers and managers that the Friday weigh-ins could stand for York Hall if there were no objections. Andries objected and thus the second weigh-in took place.

Morris insisted yesterday, however, that Dunstan had not been considered overweight. He said the scales were "flickering a few ounces" over because they had not been properly calibrated.

According to Morris, that small variation did not matter because of the unusual circumstances surrounding the show and because the decision to let the bout go on as a championship contest was to the satisfaction of all parties, including Andries.

The board's decision will be viewed with concern, however, by those who believe championship weigh-in rules should never be stretched, even slightly, no matter what the circumstances.

Dunstan: overweight at second weigh-in for bout

At the same board meeting, Joe Bugner's application for a licence to box in Britain against Scott Welch, the British, Commonwealth and World Boxing Organisation (WBO) inter-continental champion, was turned down. The last two recent contests of Bugner, 45, who — before those — had not boxed since being stopped by Bruno in eight rounds in 1987, were not considered of a high enough standard to make the Australian eligible for a British licence.

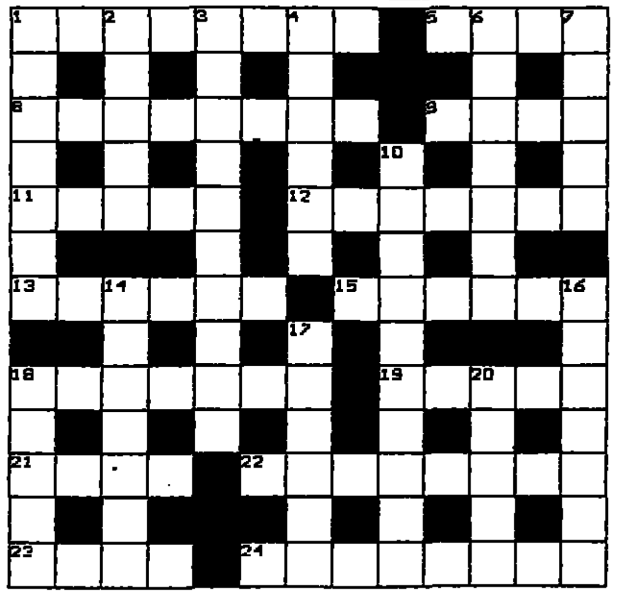
Welch's promoter, Frank Warren, said that he would ask the board to reconsider its decision. Welch, however, insisted he would sue. "I'm going to issue a writ," Welch said. "This is the biggest payday of my career. I can't say why they've turned his licence down. Bugner is better than other people the board has let me fight over here."

Warren said: "It can't be anything to do with age, because Dennis Andries [42] is still fighting and George Foreman fought for me in this country when he was past 40. Joe has done all that has been asked of him since his comeback. What did they expect him to do? Fight somebody in the top ten?"

Billy Hardy, the European and Commonwealth champion, from Sunderland, could meet Naseem Hamed, the WBO champion, in the world's first £1 million featherweight title bout.

Tommy Gilmour, Hardy's manager, said he was having talks with Warren, Hamed's promoter, about staging the contest at Roker Park in July. Gilmour expects Hardy, No 2 in the WBO rankings, to move up to the No 1 mandatory challenger's position after the successful defence of his European title against Michael Alldis, of Crawley, last Saturday. If the world title bout goes to bids, Gilmour is confident of winning. Hamed would get £750,000 and Hardy £250,000.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 706

ACROSS
- 1 Playful banter (8)
- 5 Friendly; close (to answer) (4)
- 8 One from Tirana (8)
- 9 Polluting fog (4)
- 11 Long-necked fisher bird (5)
- 12 Developed naturally; adult (5,2)
- 13 Drinking-cup (6)
- 15 Cleansing water-jet (6)
- 18 In a body (2,5)
- 19 Wheel-set under carriage (5)
- 21 Detailed proposal (4)
- 22 Forbidden zone (2-2,4)
- 23 Cement; old instrument (4)
- 24 Intrinsic (8)

DOWN
- 1 Crushing embrace (4-3)
- 2 Exclude, prohibit (5)
- 3 Serious; without frills (2-8)
- 4 Country/farm house (6)
- 6 Calendar, handbook (7)
- 7 Learn (subject) intensively (3,2)
- 10 Gamble everything (2,3,5)
- 14 Pompous talk (7)
- 16 Chic (7)
- 17 Drug: sounds like *brave girl* (6)
- 18 Drive out (5)
- 20 Stuff; ravine (5)

The solution to 705 will be published Wednesday, February 21

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Out of the shadows: Sebastian Coe, MP, the former Olympic champion, chats to the blind runner, Noel Thatcher, left, at yesterday's announcement

Paralympic trials take the plunge

DISABLED athletes are gaining proper recognition. For the first time, trials for the Paralympics are to take place at the same time and at the same venue as those for the Olympics, albeit in only one sport (Stuart Jones writes). The pioneers will swim in the pool at Ponds Forge, in Sheffield, next month.

The breakthrough was revealed at the Cafe Royal, London, yesterday by the British Paralympic Association. So were the names of 38 athletes who have already been selected to represent the nation in Atlanta in August. More than 200 others are expected to be chosen for the team.

The swimmers lead the way in more than one sense. At the last world and European championships, they won 31 and 38 gold medals respectively. In both cases, the total was 13 higher than the next most successful nations, Australia and Germany, and the collective dominance promises to continue.

Among the other individuals likely to contribute to the overall haul is Simon Jackson, 28, from Rochdale. Jackson, the world visually impaired judo champion, is seeking his third successive Paralympic gold medal. He is already assured of going to Atlanta.

Noel Thatcher is not yet, although he is the European and world champion at both the 5,000 and 10,000 metres. Not only does he intend to compete in both events, but also, using Emil Zatopek as his role model, in the marathon as well, even though the three events are to be staged within eight days.

Britain is to be represented in all but one of the 17 Paralympic sports — the football team failed to qualify — as well as in the demonstrations of yachting and wheelchair rugby. In Barcelona four years ago, the nation gathered 128 medals, finishing behind only the United States and Germany in the final tally.

Whitington fails second test

BY PETER BALL

CRAIG WHITINGTON, the Huddersfield Town forward, has not made many headlines in his career, but yesterday he made news for all the wrong reasons. After becoming the first footballer to fail a drugs test on two separate occasions, he has been charged with misconduct by the Football Association.

Last week, Roger Stanislaus, the Leyton Orient defender, was dismissed by his club after the FA suspended him for a year after a random test found traces of cocaine. Although cannabis is a "soft" drug, as a second offender, Whitington, 25, is likely to receive a swingeing sentence.

"We take quite a sympathetic line first time," an FA spokesman said, "and give players a second chance — but they are expected to take that and anyone who doesn't is obviously in serious trouble."

Whitington has made only one first-team appearance since joining Huddersfield from Scarborough for £25,000 two years ago and is available on a free transfer. He first tested positive for cannabis in March last year. At the time, he received a short suspension during the FA assessment and counselling process.

As part of the package, he was also subject to random testing for a year and it was in one of those tests, on January 9, that traces of cannabis, a drug which stays in the bloodstream for some time, were found. Whitington has 14 days in which to request a personal hearing.

Ilie Dumitrescu, Tottenham Hotspur's Romania international midfield player, is planning to go to the European Court if his appeal against the Department of Employment's refusal to grant him a work permit is unsuccessful. Dumitrescu was refused a permit when he agreed to move to West Ham United from Tottenham.

"Only in England do you have to get a new work permit to move from one club to another," Ioan Becali, Dumitrescu's agent, said yesterday. West Ham and Tottenham are likely to join any legal challenge.

The FA Premier League will resist any attempt by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to break the League's television contract with Sky. At the League's quarterly meeting yesterday, the clubs gave their support to the status quo.

"The clubs voted unanimously to support … the collective selling of TV rights," Rick Parry, the League's chief executive, said after the meeting. "The clubs gave full and total backing to our possible legal battle with the OFT."

The Football Association of Ireland (FAI) has confirmed that Mick McCarthy, Ireland's new manager, would not be able to appoint Ian Evans, his No 2 at Millwall, as a full-time assistant in his new job.

ON SATURDAY

Rising son

Jamie Redknapp
on the game, the
fans and the glory

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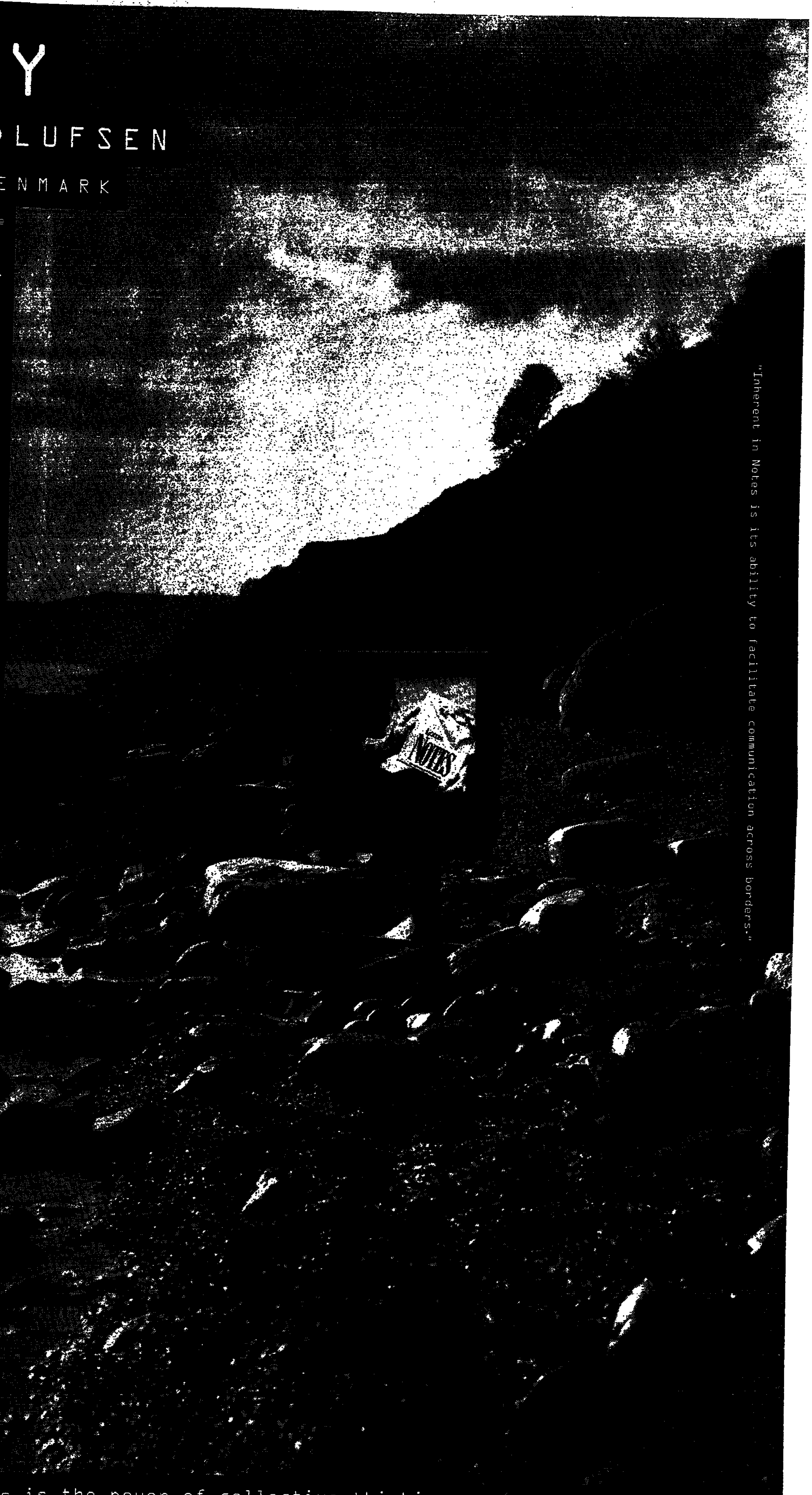

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The angry mothers of women's lib are growing old gracefully, says **Joe Joseph**

STEPHEN MARKESON
MARK SELIGER/KATZ
NIGEL PARRY/KATZ

March of time: the people who smirked at Germaine Greer, left, and Gloria Steinem when they were young now smother the older versions with praise, and no one refers to Joan Bakewell as the "thinking man's crumpet" any more

Feminism: why age *does* matter

Arriving soon is an admiring, moist-eyed biography, *Gloria Steinem: The Education of a Woman* by Carolyn Heilbrun, a professor of humanities at New York's Columbia University. Julie Andrews says if she weren't herself, then she'd like to be Steinem.

Men have always found it tricky to know how to treat young, pretty feminists. This is because men are biologically different from women, in that they possess the special Y-chromosome. This is what gives men their unique manly attributes, such as the inability to do their own laundry, and a firm belief that all committed young feminists should really look like Andrea Dworkin.

The way men see it, if a 20-year-old, mini-skirted Gloria Steinem or Germaine Greer threatens to jump down your throat, it's almost a form of foreplay. If Andrea Dworkin does it, you sit down and listen to what she has to say.

But suddenly people who smirked at the young Steinem and Greer now smother the old versions with praise. *The New York Times* calls Steinem "one of the best dates to take to a party". Is this the same Gloria Steinem who was once ridiculed by Middle America for championing the Black Panthers and the California fruit-pickers? The Gloria Steinem who had the world guffawing in the aisles when she suggested that "the architecture of Catholic churches mimics the female body: the outer portals serve as the labia majora, the inner portals as labia minora, the side altars as ovaries, and the high altar the uterus at the heart of the swelling dome that holds the body of the faithful"? The same Steinem who teased and baited the male establishment with essays such as *If Men Could Menstruate* ("If men could menstruate, they would brag about how often and how much")? Yup.

A few weeks ago, an organisation called the Veteran Feminists of America even gathered to pay tribute to 64-year-old Steinem, who became the midwife of mass-market feminism when she founded the magazine *Ms* in 1972. Speaker after speaker hailed her as brilliant, strong, constant, funny . . . the praise was so gushing that even Steinem stammered: "I keep wondering if I'm dead yet."

The other angry mothers of the movement have also now edged into the Establishment. Greer, Shere Hite and Betty Friedan, Nancy Friday and Jane Fonda, they have all spawned enough grey hair and crow's feet to be taken seriously by men at last. Age has not withered them, it has made people warm to them. There is a new generation of pretty young feminists, such as Naomi Wolf, who are taking all the heat from misogynist male book reviewers.

Look at Shere Hite. A fortnight ago, Hite — who 20 years ago gave us *The Hite Report*, a then brazen book of sexual confessions that people found hair-raising or reassuring, depending on their own sexual proclivities — was being fêted in Oxford not as a porn-peddler but as a preacher for human rights. Delivering the Amnesty Lecture at the Sheldonian Theatre, she decried religious fundamentalism which, she argued, opposes the secular Western tradition of tolerance.

Groucho Marx used to joke that he knew Doris Day before she was a virgin. Does anyone remember Germaine Greer before she was a grannyish, grey-haired elder stateswoman who now appears on telly not so that chat show hosts can wink at the camera and giggle at what they regard as her juvenile unworldliness, but to share her views on the *naïveté* of young, feisty women who want it all?

> The world now sees Greer as a fount of old-woman wisdom

Those with long memories seem to recall a slot-filler put out by Granada television in the late 1960s which featured a flirtatious, raunchy young lecturer in English from Warwick University called Germaine Greer, who wore teeny skirts, a frizzy perm, had the word "Golly!" plastered across her chest and spouted lines such as: *"It takes a fairly hefty breeze to blow my skirts above my knees/But it takes a hurricane, once up, to blow them down again."*

In her book, *The Female Eunuch*, this young iconoclast wrote: "As far as cosmetics are used for adornment in a conscious and creative way, they are not emblems of inauthenticity . . . use cosmetics chiefly for fun . . . the cheapest and some of the best fun are the colours used on the stage in greasepaint."

So, naturally, many people were jolted when Greer turned on *Guardian* columnist Suzanne Moore last year and ridiculed her for sporting "bird's-nest hair", tarty shoes, baring "three fat inches of cleavage" and for being a "feminist of the younger school", a "pouting pundit". "So much lipstick," said Greer, "must rot the brain." So much for cheap and cheerful greasepaint then.

But the thing is that now that Greer has grey hair and spreading hips, the world looks at her — a woman who teaches a little, writes a little, tends her farmyard animals a little — and they see a fount of wise-old-woman wisdom.

Don't rail against the menopause, says Greer, relish it as a liberation from the unsatisfactory hurly-burly of sex. Don't paint yourself like a Dulux colour chart, she advises, or you'll just look like a hussy. And maybe Shaw was right when he said youth was wasted on the young.

Greer sees the younger generation of feminists as a bit of a disappointment. So those who also find them a ranting bunch of harpies (as they did Greer and Steinem 30 years ago), find themselves nodding sympathetically with Greer, almost, as it were, by default.

It's the same with Betty Friedan. Now that she has turned 70, Friedan, author of *The Feminine Mystique* and widely regarded as mother of the American women's movement, worries more about the problems of old age than the problems of women. In her book, *The Second Stage*, Friedan attacked "the feminist mystique" and accused feminists of ignoring the central role of the family.

In Britain, Rosie Boycott, one of the founders of the now defunct *Spare Rib*, has also strolled into the Establishment fold, successfully editing the UK edition of *Esquire* and occasionally joining the Monday morning chatter of Radio 4's *Start The Week*. And guess what, the only place you'll find Joan Bakewell — still the same clever TV broadcaster she has always been — referred to as "the thinking man's crumpet" nowadays is in yellowing newspaper clippings. Tell that to young kids today, and they just won't believe you.

Greer, left, Steinem and Bakewell during their bra-burning days

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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How the Marchioness of Worcester became the champion of the Newbury protesters

I don't want gifts. I want to change the world

The Marchioness of Worcester with Bella and Xan: "We've got to change if we're going to have a future." Photograph by Peter Nicholls

Titled ladies who espouse good causes are hardly a novelty but there is something seriously driven and determined about the Marchioness of Worcester, the erstwhile actress Tracy Ward. Tracy Worcester, as she is known in the Green world, last weekend led a walk along the proposed route of the Newbury bypass.

Her new baby, Xan, sleeps in his pram on the doorstep. It is a long time since I have seen a London child left outside in a pram. And it is the perilous world that Lord Alexander Somerset will inherit that so exercises Tracy.

Her house, The Cottage — on the edge of the Gloucestershire park of Badminton House, home to the annual horse trials — is a large dower-house in mellow stone. It is wonderfully chaotic. This is a house where children come first, and time is not wasted on unnecessary, energy-consuming laundering. Tracy's boots are scuffed, her face devoid of artifice. Her car is an aged BMW filled with childish debris — tapes, cans, wrappers.

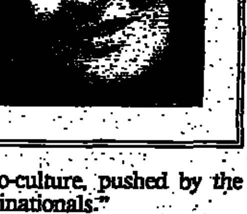
Outside the sky was blue, so Tracy put on a woollen cap and an Afghan jacket inherited from her mother-in-law (the late Duchess of Beaufort) and led me via maze-like box hedges to a grassy sward. We carried a wooden bench from the poolside. The pool was frozen, but Lady Isabella, aged five, had just broken the ice and had a swim. (The eldest child, Bobby, Earl of Glamorgan, aged seven, was at his day-school.)

Tracy is lucky, as she says. At 37, she does not have to work; she does not have to commute along pollution-clogged roads like the noble folk who toil at Friends of the Earth (FoE) headquarters. So she invites them for weekend seminars here — "I can't think how they survive in the busiest part of London: people who work for the environment should be able to get out into the environment."

I have just walked through pedestrianised Chippenham, with its empty shops. This is what happens, Tracy says, when people build bypasses and out-of-town hypermarkets. "It's killed the shops, the high street. The centre is dead. But which political party is challenging it? They are all on the global treadmill.

"I went to Mongolia recently and the people in the aeroplane were all businessmen getting Mongolians to make cheap shirts for Americans. Every company is forced now to comb the globe for cheaper labour, so small businesses die and big ones grow. The Third World is persuaded to want Barbie dolls and Nike shoes, their identity rocked by the persuasive insistence of our mono-culture, pushed by the multinationals."

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



It all seems a million miles from this pastoral idyll, loud with birdsong. The roads of car-free Badminton are safe. Tracy can raise her children — so far — without computer games, television or junk food.

Tracy was brought up in the village of Cornwell in Oxfordshire, whose only shop is now closed. Why, she wants to know, are the sandwiches sold in their local Boots made in Essex? "Nobody questions it. Why does it have to be like this? Why are 12,000 farmers and farm labourers leaving the land every year?"

She harangues everyone like this, at every opportunity. The other night she found herself sitting next to Henry Kissinger at dinner. "Tracy, I agree with every word you say," he solemnly told her.

In London she is famous for her ministers' dinners with Sir Crispin Tickell as co-host. "He gives me carte blanche on who to invite; nobody would come if it was just me." Guests have included William Waldegrave, Sir Jonathon Porritt, Brian Mawhinney and Sir Terence Burns. "I don't speak myself. I get the people who can articulate best about how the world has gone wrong." She began to tell me what Gillian Shephard had said, until she remembered that "Chatham House rules" operate.

"What I've discovered is that politicians are part of this global process, signing away their powers to unelected bureaucracies in the interests of the World Bank or the OECD. If you challenge them on the farming system — wouldn't it be better if we produced nutritious food locally? — they say sorry, my hands are tied by Europe. We tried to stop tuna being caught in nets dangerous to dolphins. 'Can't do that, it's Gatt-illegal.' They admit to being suffocated by global trade agreements.

"They are powerless: power is in the hands of money and trade; they are in thrall to the economic system. I once asked a Texan oil man, Syd Bass, 'Why don't you look at alternative energy systems?' He said the competition is so overpowering that they can only think of getting their produce sold as cheaply and as massively as the competitor."

Her husband the Marquess, the Duke of Beaufort's heir, whom she married in 1987, does not take part in her eco-gatherings. She calls him Harry, not his nickname, Bunter. "I think he's called that because he's quite clumsy. If you're 6ft 6in, things do fly. But he's ravishing, kind and generous."

When Xan was born (at 11lb, in an NHS hospital in Bristol) she donated the £2,000 saved on medical fees to the Metropolitan Transport Research Unit. "And Harry gave me a whacking cheque for the environment movement. He knows I don't want jewellery. I don't want gifts. I want to change the world. I think we've got to, if we're going to have a future. I think the planet will be laughing. It will survive but we won't if we drag the world into the next century without any social responsibility. We've got to change: we can't rely on governments to do it."

The former star of the television series *Cats' Eyes*, and sister of the actress Rachel Ward, dreads being offered an irresistible role again.

"I only care about my family, my children, the quality of the air they breathe, places to walk in peace and tranquillity. If we make our lives unpleasant, is that progress?

"Everybody cares about these things, but most people are too busy in their jobs to act. It takes time to unravel the lies and rhetoric and to try to change the state we're in. You can't save an elephant, you have to save an eco-system. So I decided to throw my lot in with Friends of the Earth. The people there have a vision so pure and so right."

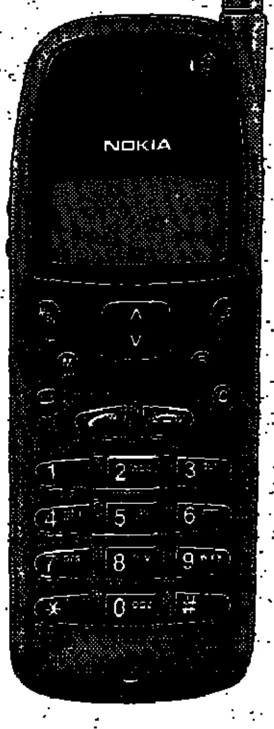
Her first FoE project was the Rainforest Ball at the Hippodrome in 1988. Her name helped to sell too many tickets. "So embarrassing," she says. "Seven months organising and it was bedlam. But we did raise £125,000."

Last year she joined Bel Mooney in her Batheaston bypass protest. "People would say: 'I know we need these 44-ton lorries.' We don't *need* these lorries or this Euro-route subsidising mass production from all over the world.

"And if everyone in Newbury could see the bigger picture they would be united. The message is: stop building roads, they only attract more traffic. There is a cheaper and more beneficial way than spending £101 million."

Tonight she hosts a dinner for 20 guests from the Soil Association and Compassion in World Farming, plus the local vicar. She will give them venison — she will serve meat if the animals "have had a happy life and are nutritious, not pumped with chemicals" — and organic vegetables. On the agenda: why local quangos subsidise huge multinationals just to soak up a few of the unemployed in Bristol.

It was time to breastfeed Xan. Bella and friends raced round the table in witches' hats. Tracy, impervious to the commotion, said: "What I've learnt is that small is beautiful, but small has no power. We have to unite, to fight the globalisation that disempowers us and undermines democracy. That is why I am a networker. And a mother."



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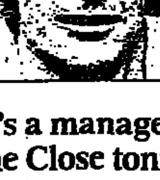


■ There's a managerial row in the Close tonight, and all of Barchester cowers

"What is this, bishop, about your stipend?" said Mrs Proudie, coming to the end of the table and standing there. Obadiah Slope did not permit the bishop to answer, but replied himself. "I have proposed a motion at the General Synod, ma'am, to abolish stipend differentials. In this day and age of Our Lord it is obscene for a bishop, even for the Bishop of Barchester, to earn twenty times as much as the curate of Plumstead Parva. Perhaps I ought not to interfere, but yet —"

"Certainly you ought not, sir," cried the infuriated dame. "And why should you so categorise my lord's emoluments as obscene? What Socinian and Erastian cant is that?"

"That is the language of Church-management-speak, marm," replied the slippery Slope, with a sanctified smirk. "If we of the Church are going to network with and be a partner-in-change with other parts of society then we must learn to speak their language of management and share our own theological jargon. Jargon after all is merely a way of e-mailing grid references for concepts. Just as the teachers in our Barsetshire schools now spend more time in self-appraisal and appraising each other's self-appraisals than they do in front of their blackboards, so we men of the cloth must find a developmental facilitative approach. We need to maximise the potential of our human resources to empower the lesser clergy by assigning them areas of decision-making. This may necessitate an element of team-performance bonuses for the Cathedral Close Centre. And that must entail stipendiary equalisation."

"I am not sure I quite follow that," interposed Dr Proudie, scratching his head.

"It is perfectly simple, my lord," oiled Mr Slope. "Our brethren in the Southwall Diocese have pioneered the use of Total Quality Management (TQM) for the Church. In simplistic days, our mission statement was called the Holy Gospel, but now in Barchester we must draft a new one to articulate our core values and long- and short-term goals, and identify developmental needs. Similarly we need to service our stakeholders. This is what unenlightened clergy designate as ministering to their flocks. But today the language of computers is more familiar than the dialect of shepherding, even in Barsetshire. With teamwork and focus we can blueprint a diocese in tune with tomorrow's imperatives."

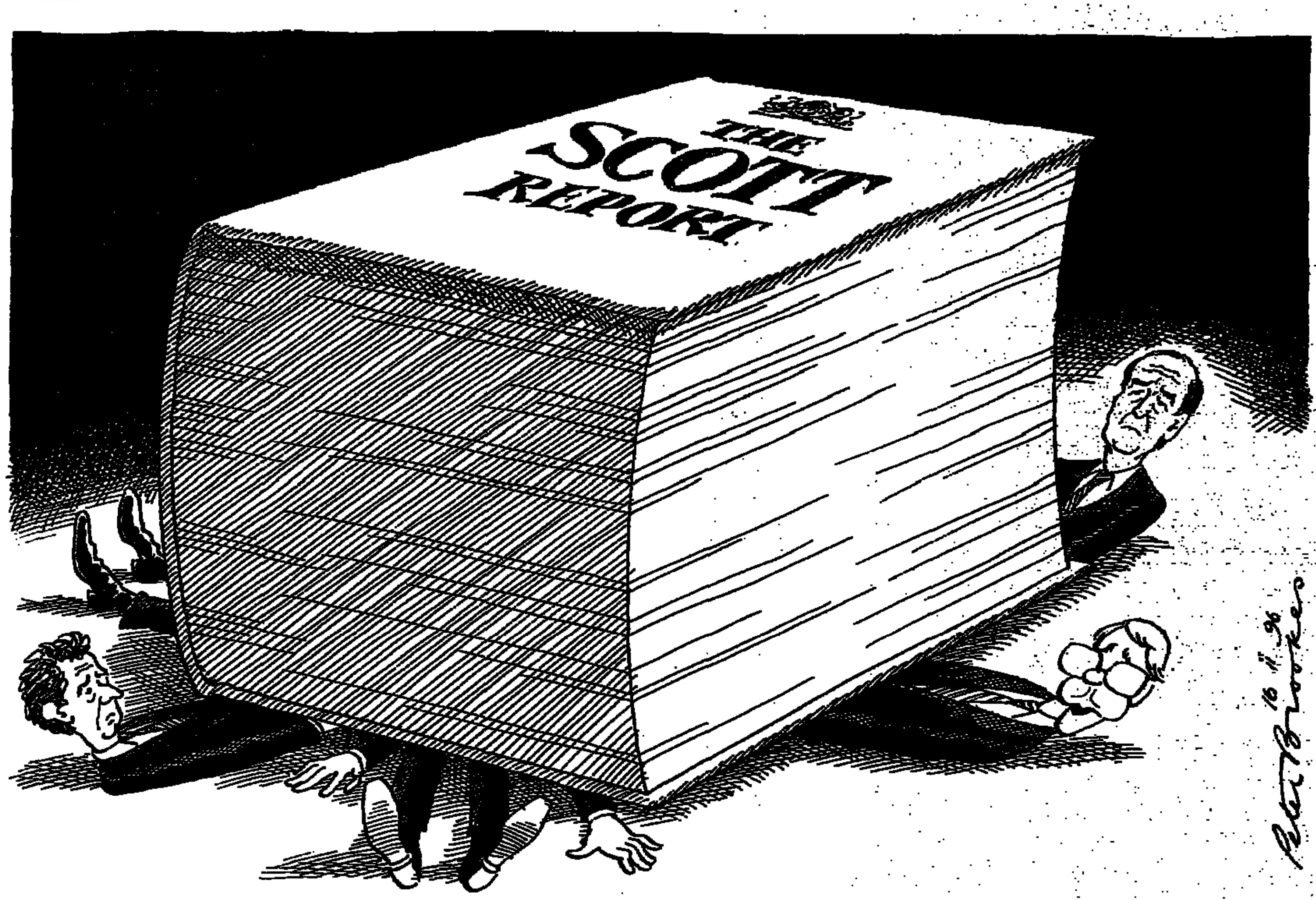
Mrs Proudie was boiling over with wrath. "My lord," said she, "am I to be vouchsafed *an answer about the stipend or am I not?*"

Again Mr Slope responded on behalf of his bishop. "My lord," he said, "it is arguable that chief execs such as yourself merit a particular emolument package in view of the high-risk, high-turnover nature of your work. No doubt some modifications can made in your pension arrangements, as the new management jargon describes what used to be called Providence. I will have a word with the Human Resources Manager."

"Impertinence close to blasphemy," exclaimed Mrs Proudie.

"My lord," said Mr Slope, "severe critics have always supposed that the Church of England was run by a bunch of old women. Now that statistical research shows that most of our learning people and many of our non-essential front-line services managers are female, and there are even priestesses, we must ensure that we do not preach ourselves into a zero-sum scenario. You must not broadcast the sound-bite to the common media that in the cathedral close a lady wears the episcopal robe."

Without further parley, Mrs Proudie left the palace withdrawing-room, and did not forget to shut the door with resentful emphasis after her. There was no mincing of matters now. There followed a close conference between the bishop and his chaplain over the quality-control management (as Mr Slope called holiness) that was needed to keep the Church in a win-win situation. The primary task and concurrent engineering were to be found in the alternative manual that had replaced the prayer book. Without this new managerial modernisation, Mr Slope impressed upon his quaking bishop that the Church was at risk of self-destruction (the new phrase for sin), and Barsetshire plc was in a high-risk profile of bankruptcy (being damned).



"Once you've put it down, you can't pick it up."

Mountain over molehill

Sir Richard Scott laboured long, but the grotesque result fails to address the real questions of government

Simon Jenkins

When King Kong loomed over the Manhattan skyline, the citizens behaved like demented ants. Men dived into cars and crashed into lampposts. Policemen screamed and waved their arms. Beautiful girls tore their underwear. The monster smiled at them all and wrecked the Empire State Building.

Thus Downing Street in advance of yesterday's Scott report. This entire fiasco was almost vindicated by the handling of its climax. A Government pleading respect for Parliament insulted Parliament. Ministers desperate to wrongfoot their opponents handed them a gift on a plate. A Whitehall machine eager to dismiss the Scott inquiry as so *much judicial self-abuse made it seem a* noble crusade against men with something nasty to hide. As for the excuse that every government conceals reports until it can rebut them, that is hokum.

Why the fuss? Sir Richard Scott let them all off the hook, albeit a hook of *papier mâché*. He was asked to answer two modest questions put to him in 1992 by the Prime Minister. One was about the status of government documents in criminal trials. The other was about the disclosure to Parliament of changes in arms trade policy. Both had caused ministers some embarrassment and arose from that bugbear of all governments, espionage. All Whitehall's great traumas, from Vassall and Blunt to Franks and *Spycatcher*, have arisen from the antics of spies. It is a wonder nobody thinks to abolish them.

For some reason Sir Richard was seized by pretentions to grandeur. He set out to build a mountain over a molehill. He abandoned all sense of proportion and adopted the mien of a self-confessed "naïve" outsider. Theatrical public hearings were staged at which he and his assistant, Presiley Baxendale, mimicked American courtroom dramas. They treated the highest in the land like defendants in a criminal trial. With the luxury of unlimited time and the right to summon paper they roamed free over such arcane concepts as ministerial responsibility, Civil Service loyalty, judicial discretion and official secrecy. They hinted at deep constitutional thoughts and duly became the despair of Whitehall and darlings of the media and even the London stage.

The molehill remains a molehill. After the ballyhoo of his "trial of ministers" and his leaked draft report, Sir Richard found himself backtracking on his wilder initial allegations. He is not a malicious man. Section D of his report indicates a clear misleading of Parliament about the nuances of non-lethal arms exports to Iraq, but it accepts that there was no bending of the formal arms policy. His conclusion rightly asserts that where a measure of secrecy is required by policy and where ministers *are relying on official advice, there is an* obligation to be as frank as possible. (Ian Lang's summary of these passages yesterday was woefully partial.) Yet Sir Richard detects no insincerity, no conspiracy to mislead and no hanging offences to be laid at the door of Lord Howe, William Waldegrave or their officials. There was only the usual obfuscation of parliamentary intercourse. In other words, the fault lay with the process and not the processors. In this he is wholly convincing.

As for the public interest immunity certificates, I remain baffled by the furore. In a disclosure unthinkable in any of our trading rivals, ministers sent a judge in a criminal trial a mass of documents concerning commercial espionage. Had they not wanted them disclosed, they would not have sent them. The meaning of their action was to let the trial judge decide on disclosure. In the event he agreed. He passed documents to the defence, which showed them to the press. For the defence lawyer, Geoffrey Robertson, now to howl about "gagging orders" is absurd. Thanks to these documents, he was given the opportunity to tear the veil from the entire "arms to Iraq" affair, which he gleefully accepted. Nobody gagged him. His clients, men patently involved in making arms for the odious Saddam Hussein, got off.

A system designed to protect the activities of British spies from disclosure, yet not so as to lead to a miscarriage of justice, surely achieved its goal. Paul Henderson, a man whose business activities might have earned him the excoriation of Mr Robertson and *The Guardian*, emerged from their embrace a "brave MI6 agent" (which he was not) and an idol of the Left. Indeed one of the many warped consequences of Sir Richard's *modus operandi* was to make public heroes of the two individuals most culpable in this *silly affair, Mr Henderson and the* former minister, Alan Clark. They have given new meaning to "Scott free". Those who had to mop up after them were cast as knaves (not least in the BBC's biased dramatisation).

So much for the molehills. What of Sir Richard's mountain, a veritable Ste-Victoire in its range and colouring, and in its creator's ambition? What justified three years work, three years of turmoil, publicity and anguish? Reading Scott I had an eerie sense that he had been passed a dummy. I would have welcomed his views on substantive matters such as the ethics of the arms trade, the efficacy of the House of Commons or the future of judicial review. Instead we have five volumes almost entirely filled with historical material on arms deals, parliamentary exchanges and commercial case law. There can be nothing left to learn of the nuances and compromises of "grey area" machine tools licensing. But after 2,000 pages and a broad exoneration, we are hardly the wiser. It is as well Sir Richard was not directed at the Pergau dam scandal. There real clashes of trade and foreign policy were at stake, and ministers were unquestionably culpable of deception. Pergau remains the one that got away.

The Scott report ends with a dying fall. It illustrates what practitioners of government know well, that theirs is a difficult calling. Wrangling ministers and officials are not inept schemers seeking to evade Sir Richard's stern reprimand. They represent real interests in real contention. Their accountability to Parliament, as to the press and the law, is foggy, since — especially in foreign affairs — there has to be a premium on confidentiality. Their chief enemy is time. Expecting them to cover all their traces against a Scott inquiry is like expecting Sir Richard himself having to give his report in two weeks flat, with no mistakes and subject to public scrutiny of his every move. I imagine he would not like that.

Unlike the law, government takes place in real time. Lord Franks, reporting on the intelligence failures prior to the Falklands invasion, did so quickly and incisively in one short volume. Sir Richard's raw material was paltry, a few fudged parliamentary answers, the *failed conviction of three arms dealers* and some ministerial red faces. He should have spent six weeks on the job and gone back to his courtroom. I disagree with Lord Howe when he says the Scott technique was unjust. Politicians sometimes deserve a rougher ride than the stagey banter of Parliament. But the report's lack of proportion and dilatoriness was grotesque.

The test of an exercise in hindsight is whether those involved would, in retrospect, have behaved differently. The thinness of Sir Richard's recommendations suggests not. There will always be a tension between sensitive policy changes and their public presentation. Ministers will always seek to shield their disagreements from the public. Water will always flow downhill. The report leaves the PII procedure (with some technical reforms) in place. It accepts commercial and security confidentiality. It agrees that ministerial responsibility is diluted by the complexity of government. The mountain reduces to eight final pages, wishing that ministers be more "forthcoming with information". The coda is a pious wish that politicians might behave less like . . . politicians.

This inquiry was begun after an executive, not a legal, failure. MPs' Question Time and letters are not adequate properly to scrutinise modern government. Parliament hired an outside inquisitor to do this job for it, rather than delegate it to a select committees (as Congress would have done). This is a poor comment on Parliament. I read to the end of the report for advice on how better to order these things in future. I read in vain.

A blind eye to blame

Peter Riddell

thinks the Tories will survive — just

The Scott report is highly damaging for the Government, but will probably not be fatal for either William Waldegrave or Sir Nicholas Lyell. Probably, because yesterday was an occasion for propaganda, not considered judgment. It was like a Budget — a theatrical event when there is too much material to absorb at once, so immediate impressions are often misleading.

The Government case was robust but *only partially convincing. The more* time people had to read the report, the more partial the version presented by Ian Lang looked. He and other ministers sought to claim victory before the debate had started by defining it in very narrow terms. There were two strands: one that everyone acted honourably and, second, that the whole affair had been got up malevolently by the Opposition, which ought to apologise. This was to maintain party unity and rouse the more gullible Tory backbenchers to fury against Robin Cook, their favourite bogey. But it is partisan hogwash.

The more effective Government defence is that while mistakes were made, Mr Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas, and other ministers and officials, acted in good faith. Sir Richard Scott accepted this at his news conference. The report says that Mr Waldegrave did not have "any duplicitous intention" and did not intend his letters to MPs to be "misleading", though it is highly critical of his actions over export guidelines. This approach is similar to the verdict reached by Lord Franks's report into the events leading up to the Argentine invasion of the Falklands — that despite serious intelligence failings, the Government could not be blamed. As 13 years ago, this allows the Government to argue that everyone acted "honestly and with propriety" and there was no conspiracy to send innocent people to jail. That should be enough to protect Mr Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas. The Prime Minister last night committed himself strongly to the two ministers, and it would be a serious personal defeat if they were now forced to resign.

But that is not the end of the story. Behaving honestly and with propriety may be enough to remain in office, but it does not even remotely *answer the report's criticisms of ministers* and officials. Mr Lang yesterday engaged in cherry-picking of the most favourable paragraphs and even sentences.

Even a cursory dip into the five volumes shows that while ministers may have acted in good faith, they and their officials behaved at the least incompetently, and in many cases worse. For instance, the report concludes in volume one that guidelines on export sales "did not remain unchanged"; that the failure to inform Parliament was "deliberate"; and that intelligence information that machine-tools from Matrix Churchill went to the Iraqi arms programme was "so strong" that for ministers to maintain that they were possibly for civilian use was "equivalent to the Nelsonian use of a blind eye". The report also damns the Government's handling of the prosecution in the Matrix Churchill case and the signing of public interest immunity certificates, but these conclusions were brushed aside by the Government as not being in accordance with the accepted view of the law.

The Government has a case to answer which goes well beyond the personal honour of Mr Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas. The report raises serious questions about whether the Government complied with its procedural rulebook, Questions of Procedure for Ministers (QPM). Sir Richard concludes on page 507 of the first volume that "the Government's statements made in 1989 and 1990 about policy on defence exports to Iraq consistently failed to comply with the standards set out in QPM and, more important, failed to discharge the obligations imposed by the constitutional principle of ministerial accountability".

These are not trivial matters. Even if the good faith of ministers is accepted, these issues cannot be dismissed as being of interest only to conspiracy theorists. They go to the heart of ministers' relations with Parliament, as Sir Richard discusses in a fascinating chapter on ministerial accountability at the end of volume four, which is likely to become an essential text for constitutional theorists. Sir Richard argues that if, as the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robin Butler, maintains, "ministers are to be excused blame and personal criticism on the basis of the absence of personal knowledge or involvement, the corollary ought to be an acceptance of the obligation to be forthcoming with information to Parliament". This is central to the failings which the Scott report has identified.

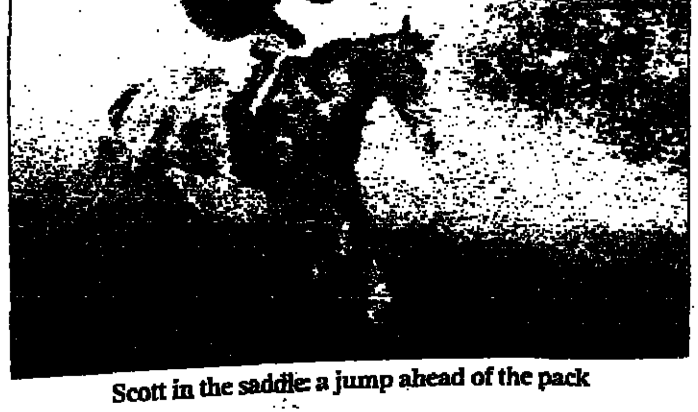
The political impact of the report will depend not just on whether Mr Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas face fresh challenges over the next week, but also on how far the general impression of devious behaviour sticks. The key will be whether senior Tory MPs, beyond known critics like Richard Shepherd, break ranks, and on the extent of media criticism. If the Tories remain united, the two ministers should remain safe. The Government should be helped by the upturn in the morale of Tory MPs since the new year. If the report had come out last year when the party was in a much more fractious mood, the impact could have been much worse, and it could *have* been seized upon by Mr Major's critics. As it is, the report looks like battering the structure but leaving it more or less intact.

Scott ho!

MAKING GOOD his escape from Whitehall, Sir Richard Scott departs this morning for a week's hunting in Ireland. His passion for the chase is undiminished — indeed, he insisted on being allowed to continue the dangerous sport before agreeing to take on *the inquiry*.

His insistence was a risky proposition. Sir Richard is one of the more fearless members of the Mid-Surrey Farmers' Draghounds, and a fall would have jeopardised the report. Riders of average ability would end up in hospital — or worse — if they attempted what Sir Richard takes on in the saddle. In this week's *Horse and Hound*, the High Court judge Sir Edward Cazalet writes an ode *to his ability and lauds the stylish* manner in which Scott cleared Pug's Hole — a brute of a fence at Burwash more challenging than Becher's Brook at Aintree:

As His Lordship sits in judgment
And construes an ancient scroll.
The Litigants all whisper,
'That's the Judge who sat Pug's
Hole'.



Scott in the saddle: a jump ahead of the pack

While the likes of William Waldegrave and Sir Nicholas Lyell may curse Sir Richard, the secretary of the Masters of Draghounds, Brian Stern, can only praise the man: "A rider who can jump these kinds of hedges is extremely rare. You have to be extremely brave. Some would consider such feats as reckless, mad even."

● *Keen young lefties are being invited to apply for a researcher/campaigner job in the classified ads of the* New Statesman. *The brief is to work for Michael Meacher MP researching "job insecurity". The position is available for just one year.*

DIARY

Bagman

ROBIN COOK, the Shadow Foreign Secretary who had to lead the assault on the Government over the Scott report after some frenetic speed-reading, had had some practice at impromptu reactions recently at Labour's Europe conference.

Not only was his train delayed so that he arrived in Birmingham hours late, but the bag containing the speech he was to make was stolen on the journey. Despite the odds, Cook made it to the conference platform before the end of the day's session, and did his bit without anyone noticing anything amiss.

Powell-axed

CARLA POWELL, hot-blooded wife of Baroness Thatcher's former private secretary Sir Charles, has brought Lord Wyatt's dizzy daughter Petronella to book over the Italian male.

Responding to Petsy's extraordinary piece in last week's *Spectator* claiming that Italian chaps didn't measure up to much, she dashed off a furious letter in support of her countrymen.

"Men for men, the Italian male has out-scored his English counterpart throughout history," she writes. "Machiavelli *v* Burke? Leonardo *v* Turner? Palladio *v* Adam? Casanova *v* — well who is your choice, Petronella?"

Ivy league

THERE are worse places to be holed up than in a well-known restaurant during a bomb scare. Yesterday, well-heeled lunchers who had taken refuge from the tedium *of the Scott recriminations at the* Ivy found themselves incarcerated.

Neither entry nor egress was possible as police investigated the problem. Peter Lilley was turned away, while Clive Anderson and Josephine Hart were locked inside. There was compensation though when, in despair at the frustration of diners, the restaurant offered free champagne all round.

Quite unfit

KEEP-FIT NEWS: the singer Cher, hurtling towards her 50th birthday, is said to be stepping out with Matt Dillon, a twenty-something actor still working his way through his first packet of razor blades.

Some might consider this reported union a marvel of biology, a welcome triumph over the forces of gravity. Not Cindy Adams of the *New York Post*. Admitting to jealousy, she commented yesterday: "I *mean, Cher has garter-belts older* than this guy."

"I'm having an arms crisis"

● *A brace of traffic policemen with the Lothian and Borders force was out on the moors the other day, trapping speeding motorists with a radar gun. Suddenly the gun jammed — permanently — after registering a speed of more than 300 miles per hour. Seconds later a low-flying Harrier jet screamed overhead.*

PHS

هكذا من الأصل

ROUND ONE

The Government is not yet Scott-free

Ian Lang picked his way through the Scott report with the aplomb of one who had a map of the minefield that others, Opposition and press, could not yet have mastered. That advantage will not last for long. Sir Richard found ministers to have acted like fools. He did not, crucially, conclude that they were knaves. No individual will be off the hook for some time yet. On the substance of policy (lest it be forgotten in the furore), Sir Richard concludes unequivocally that the policy on exports to Iraq did change in 1988, and that this change should have been drawn to the attention of Parliament.

Lawyers can, and doubtless will, have a field day with the report's contention that in law, ministers were wrongly advised to sign public interest immunity certificates in the Matrix Churchill case. Certainly, the conduct of government over the Matrix Churchill trial comes in for some trenchant criticism. Ministers were advised both by Treasury lawyers and by the Attorney-General, Sir Nicholas Lyell, that they had a duty to sign public interest immunity (PII) certificates covering documents that would have been useful to the defence. Michael Heseltine believed that these documents ought to be disclosed. He demanded that his PII express his reservations and asked that they be passed on to the prosecution.

Sir Nicholas, Sir Richard argues, was wrong in principle and in practice: ministers are not under a duty to sign PII certificates, particularly in a criminal trial, if they believe that the public interest requires disclosure. Sir Richard writes, "the view of the law on which the making of the PII class claims in the Matrix Churchill case was based was unsound". The Attorney-General's advice was "based on a fundamental misconception of the principles of PII law".

Sir Nicholas is also found guilty of failing to ensure that Mr Heseltine's reservations were passed on. Here Sir Richard is categoric: "I do not accept that he was not personally at fault . . . I would have expected him to recognise that important constitutional and legal issues were raised by Mr Heseltine's stand and to have ensured that Mr Moses . . . was adequately instructed."

For the Government's most senior law officer to be accused of such mistakes is no cause for confidence. Combined with his failure to ensure that Mr. Heseltine's anxieties were communicated, it must seem that the avoidance of political embarrassment was given precedence over the interests of justice.

For the Government as a whole, the most damning sentence is in the conclusion. There was, he says, "a consistent undervaluing by Government of the public interest that full information should be made available to Parliament". Time and again, the Government "failed to discharge the obligations imposed by the constitutional principle of Ministerial accountability" — a failure which "undermines, in my opinion, the democratic process".

The core of the Government's defence, and the source of its relief, is that Sir Richard does clear ministers of "duplicitious intention". He was prepared to accept that ministers believed, however mistakenly, that "they were avoiding a formal change to the guidelines" announced in 1985 on exports to Iran and Iraq policy. They believed the relaxed interpretation of the guidelines, with respect to Iraq, to be "a justifiable use of the flexibility believed to be inherent in the guidelines".

In consequence, although he finds that information given by William Waldegrave, the minister whose career has been most centrally in question, "was apt to mislead" and that he "was in a position to know that this was so", he accepts that he did not intend his letters and answers to Parliamentary Questions "to be misleading and did not so regard them". The duplicity, he writes, lay in "the flexibility claimed for the guidelines". Crucially not only for Mr Waldegrave but for the Government, the report concludes that had he known that the machine tools exported to Iraq were for military use, "he would not have given way".

Labour had a difficult time yesterday. Its central accusations — that ministers conspired to mislead Parliament, that they operated a cover-up by "gagging orders" in the Matrix Churchill case and that Mr Waldegrave was as complicitous as Alan Clark in nods and winks that let exports with military uses reach Iraq — do not on an initial reading appear to stand. Dishonesty, however, is not the only issue. In page after page, ministers and officials are charged with incompetence and, even more damagingly, with a cavalier attitude to accountability.

This is where, in the longer term, the Scott report is likely to be judged most important and most disappointing. The report reads like more like a lawyer's brief than a guide to better government. Its recommendations are disappointingly narrow and technical. The light shone into Whitehall has revealed many murky corridors; but it has not supplied, let alone applied the broom.

YELTSIN AGAIN

A two-horse field for the Russian leadership stakes

From the moment that he emerged from hospital last November, it was clear that President Yeltsin would seek a second term. Yesterday he confirmed that speculation, announcing that he had a duty to "consolidate all healthy forces and prevent shocks that could lead to civil war." Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, also announced that he would run, to prevent "the destruction of our country". Despite the plethora of other potential candidates, including Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the June election should be a straight fight between the two men.

Since Mr Yeltsin was elected in 1991, Russia has experienced change. Market reform, which first spurted ahead, has spluttered under Viktor Chernomyrdin. But it has left the bulk of the economy in private hands. Political pluralism is now so entrenched that even the Communists do not demand a return to the monolith of power. Prices have been freed and most subsidies abolished. The currency is convertible within Russia and inflation tamed. The press, though often intimidated, remains outspoken.

All these are achievements: but they are not irreversible. Too few reforms have been codified. Criminality has spread into every reach of life, and private enterprise is too entangled with crime. Monetary stability is threatened by the lack of fiscal discipline, and Mr Yeltsin is still too ready to buy social peace by printing money and handing out wage increases to miners, pensioners and others. Mr Zyuganov may not lead his country back to Stalinism, but he could halt the change and revive the old ways of political intimidation.

There are many reasons why Mr Yeltsin does not deserve a second term. His health is so poor that, like Brezhnev, he is now virtually a prisoner of his doctors and self-seeking Kremlin aides. He has made spectacular miscalculations, notably in Chechenia, and is trying to exonerate himself by pandering to nationalists while blaming underlings. He has retreated so far from reform that he no longer is a real advocate of the unfinished revolution. And by running again, he perpetuates the example of a Kremlin politician unable to leave office gracefully.

And yet Mr Yeltsin remains the only man nominally committed to a post-communist order who has any chance of success. He has appointed men, such as his Foreign Minister, who may hark back to nationalist communism, but who so far have co-operated soberly with the West. He is, at heart, a democrat, however bearish his behaviour. The West has learnt to do business with him. Yet it would be wrong to count on his return: Western politicians must work with whomever is elected. Open backing for Mr Yeltsin may indeed be counter-productive in this nationalist age. But, *faute de mieux*, if it is a choice of Yeltsin or Zyuganov, the West has no difficulty in making its preference clear.

FLOREAT SERENA

Amateurism in the pursuit of villains is no vice

It is the footfall of Gucci rather than the thud of Plod's size thirteens on Brighton's lanes that now strikes fear among the town's villains. Serena Soames has put the constabulary to shame with her DIY detective work.

The wife of the Armed Forces Minister Nicholas tracked down valuables burgled from her home and fenced to Lovejoys. Her success is proof that the great English writers of detective fiction are right. In a world of DNA fingerprinting and electronic surveillance the best way to catch a crook is still to engage an amateur sleuth.

Since Sherlock Holmes first doffed his deerstalker to Lestrade of the Yard it has been the private eye who has had the edge over the State's men. Lord Peter Wimsey and Harriet Vane, in their urbanity almost the equals of Nicholas and Serena Soames, boasted a better clean-up rate than the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad. Miss Marple dealt with suspicious deaths in St Mary Mead — which gave the village a higher murder rate than downtown LA — without so much as dropping a stitch. Hercule Poirot and Albert Campion struck fear into the black hearts of any country house killer. Now the mention of Serena Soames's name should induce a tremble in the fingers of any country house burglar.

Amateur gumshoes bring talents to the apprehension of criminals that elude the professionals of Scotland Yard. Father Brown's insights into men's immortal souls yielded better clues than the imprints of their perishable soles. A practised huntswoman, Mrs Soames brought the virtues of the hunting field to the pursuit of her cherished oak bootjack. Determination, a love of the chase and a willingness to carry on when the trail went cold helped the countrywoman sniff out the swag the urban force failed to find. What better school of character can there be than the saddle, what better teacher of persistence than wily Reynard?

Fuddy-duddies argue that leaving law and order to the layman encourages the vigilante, but Mrs Soames's success proves you should not look a gifted horsewoman in the mouth. The first place in the fight against crime must go to the police, but room should still be made for the gifted amateur. The British always prefer gentleman to players, especially when the gentlemen are ladies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Maternity as free service on NHS

From Dr Paul Crawford Walker

Sir, I was amazed to read your report today that an unnamed health authority has, apparently, agreed to fund a surrogate pregnancy from the public purse.

As a former Director of Public Health, responsible for advising my own health authority what health services it should purchase under the then new internal market arrangements in the NHS, I advised in 1992 that it should not purchase so-called assisted conception procedures such as IVF and GIFT. The grounds were that these procedures were expensive and did not confer any measurable health benefits.

The same arguments can be applied with even greater force to surrogate pregnancy. They could also, it should be noted, be applied to natural pregnancy, leading to the obvious question of why should the NHS provide free maternity care?

It is possible, I believe, to argue that health is a fundamental human right and that therefore a civilised society should protect, promote and restore it as a publicly financed collective good. There is of course the corresponding duty on individuals to do all they reasonably can to protect, promote and restore their own health. I do not consider, however, that having children is a fundamental human right requiring an equivalent collective response.

In fifty years time we will look upon the notion that having children is such a right with the same puzzlement with which we now regard the view, once enshrined in law, that wives were merely chattels.

In the meantime, we must make a start somewhere to promote this new enlightened ethical framework. Denying publicly funded surrogate pregnancy seems as good a place as any.

Yours sincerely,
P. C. WALKER
(Director of Public Health,
Norwich Health Authority, 1989-93),
8 Church Avenue,
Sneyd Park, Bristol, Avon.
February 13.

Medicine and therapy

From Dr Alastair J. Baker

Sir, I read with interest and concern your article on an infant suffering neonatal jaundice whose parents believe her to have been cured by Chinese medicine ("Little Amber's Chinese cure", Body and Mind, February 6; see also letters, February 8, 13).

As one of the team of paediatric hepatologists responsible for the investigation and care of the child in question I know that the management of her case was along lines which would be regarded as conventional in any centre practising modern medicine throughout the world.

No sensible doctor would dismiss out of hand the potential pharmacological value of any type of treatment, including Chinese medicine; however, the value of such treatment can only be accepted once it has been subjected to properly designed scientific scrutiny. No Chinese herb or medicine has been proven to have any beneficial effect whatsoever on any form of neonatal jaundice. The potential toxicity of such medicine is widely recognised and its risks must be considerably greater in new-born children.

Any parent who seeks management of an infant with jaundice by Chinese medicine to the exclusion of conventional medical care, takes a very grave risk with the life and wellbeing of the child.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. BAKER
(Consultant Paediatric Hepatologist),
King's College Hospital,
Denmark Hill, SE5.

From Mr D. L. Crosby

Sir, Doubtless large numbers of people claim to feel better after indulging in aromatherapy, reflexology and similar pursuits, as your leading article ("The healing touch", February 5) indicates: but does this mean that these should be provided free? Obviously those who wish to pay for such activities should not be discouraged from doing so.

Quite rightly, it is now perceived that all NHS provision should be scrutinised for efficiency and safety. It is certainly not time to give carte blanche to a whole host of nebulous therapies which have not passed similar tests.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID CROSBY (Chairman),
Cardiff Community Healthcare
NHS Trust,
Trenewydd, Fairwater Road,
Llandaff, Cardiff 5.

Lords reform: the barbarians are not yet at the gate

From Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM

Sir, The reform of the House of Lords (letters, February 9 and 13) is and has long been a difficult and elusive matter. It can be argued that, even as at present constituted, the second chamber exhibits more signs of both health and independence as a constitutional organ than does today's House of Commons.

It is however marred not merely by logical indefensibility (which should not be given too much weight) but by the dreary willingness of a big reserve tank of hereditary Conservatives to allow themselves to be from time to time whipped against wisdom, as with the poll tax, or in favour of some of Mr Michael Howard's knee-jerk proposals.

It will nonetheless require an unusual deadliness of aim to produce a new chamber which combines the virtues of the old with a new political fairness without making it the biggest of all quangos.

Despite these qualifications, what I find nonsensical is the attempt by the Government and others to portray proposals to restrain the right to sit and vote of hereditary peers as a constitutional monstrosity, a sign of barbarians at the gate, and an undermining of the defences of the monarchy. This is typical of the unhistorical ignorance which characterises so much government thought, from the Prime Minister downwards.

I cite six occasions in this century:

1. In 1907 Lord Newton, a prominent Conservative peer, brought forward a proposal which involved eliminating three quarters of the hereditary peers from the House of Lords. It was supported by the Dukes of Devonshire and Northumberland and the Archbishop of Canterbury.
2. In 1910 Lord Rosebery (never nominally a Conservative, but already so far to the right as to make Sir John Simon, a leading Liberal of the next generation, appear a flaming radical) proposed a measure of reform of which "a necessary preliminary" was that "the possession of a peerage should no longer of itself give the right to sit and vote in the House of Lords".
3. In 1911 Lord Lansdowne, the Conservative Leader in the Lords, moved a Bill to restrict the number of hereditaries to 150 (in a House of 350), elected by the others from specified categories which included ex-Ministers, former viceroys, governors, high commissioners, ambassadors, and privy counsellors. This seems to me remarkably close to the likely outcome of what is currently proposed.
4. In the Parliament Act of that year the preamble stated the intention "to substitute for the House of Lords as it at present exists a Second Chamber constituted on a popular instead of a hereditary basis".
5. In 1933, this preamble having remained an aspiration, that notable revolutionary, the fourth Marquess of Salisbury, brought forward another plan to reduce the number of hereditaries to 150.
6. In 1967-68 Lords Carrington and Jellicoe (Conservative Leader and Deputy Leader in the Lords), together with Iain Macleod, agreed to an all-party scheme by which existing hereditaries would lose their right to vote and their successors the right to sit. Only the unholy alliance of Michael Foot and Enoch Powell prevented this scheme becoming law.

This long chronicle may on the one hand be taken as an illustration of how reforming the Lords is as difficult as grasping an eel; on the other it exposes the farce of the modern Conservative Party treating the invasion of the hereditary principle as a dastardly depredation.

I find it increasingly difficult to understand the curious dichotomy by which that party on the one hand threatens so many established institutions which work well, from HMSO to the Post Office to Civil Service recruitment, and on the other gathers up its skirts in horror at any change in our constitutional arrangements, which on the whole have come to work badly.

Yours faithfully,
ROY JENKINS,
House of Lords.
February 13.

Right to silence

From Mr Piers Ashworth, QC

Sir, Some sections of the media are eager to portray decisions of the European Court of Human Rights as defeats for British justice. Those decisions that uphold British law sometimes receive less attention. Such was the *Murray v United Kingdom* case ("Republican wins £15,000 from human rights court"; also Law Report, February 9).

It is true that the court held that denial of access to a solicitor for 48 hours was a breach of the Convention, and this was the part of the decision highlighted in the media.

But this was a minor element in the judgment: indeed on the facts of the case it was almost an irrelevance as the applicant had maintained his silence both before and after access to a solicitor, and the court awarded no compensation (and only about one quarter of his costs).

The important element of the decision was that the court upheld the right of a judge or jury to draw adverse inferences from an accused's silence in situations which clearly called for an explanation from him. This was a novel principle that was introduced generally into our criminal law only two years ago (in Northern Ireland some years previously) in the face of considerable opposition (letters, October 9, 14, 1993).

The opponents of the legislation maintained that it was unfair and infringed an accused's "fundamental" right to silence. The European Court of Human Rights has, according to your Law Report, now made it clear that the right to silence is not an absolute right and that drawing inferences from silence in appropriate circumstances is only "a matter of common sense" and "could not be regarded as unfair or unreasonable in the circumstances".

It is indeed a triumph for British justice when a court, which many see as excessively liberal, upholds as fair and reasonable commonsense principles which go some way to redressing the balance between criminal and victim.

Yours faithfully,
PIERS ASHWORTH,
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4.
February 12.

Questions of race

From Mrs Rosemary Charles

Sir, When news of trouble attributed to race starts coming from supposedly tranquil Somerset (report, February 6) perhaps we should consider where such divisions originate.

I have recently been asked to state my ethnic origin (I have refused) when applying for an office job, joining an adult education day-class and — unbelievably — by the Guide Association. I would suggest that only qualifications and experience are relevant in the first case, the ability to pay in the second, and willingness to give time and commitment in the third. Although one could argue about further details, the place of birth of my ancestors is, or should be, irrelevant.

The organisations demanding this information are doing nothing but increase division by giving it some sort of official validation.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. CHARLES,
6 Bridewell Street,
Wymondham, Norfolk.

Countryside pursuits

From the Chief Executive of the British Field Sports Society

Sir, I know that I can speak on behalf of the 5 million country sports supporters in lauding the letter from Messrs Major, Blair and Ashdown (February 9; see also letters, February 12 and 15). However, I hope the leaders' sentiments will now be emulated by their fellow MPs.

As your excellent leading article, "Three countrymen" (February 9) pointed out, by "advocating the protection of our countryside in its rich personality and character" our politicians must recognise the vital role that country sports play in managing and maintaining rural England.

It is no coincidence that 70 per cent of all new woodland planting on farms in England and Wales is for sporting purposes, that rivers frequented by anglers are kept healthy and pollution-free, or that we have the healthiest herd of red deer on Exmoor, an area whose culture is centred around deer hunting.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN HANBURY-TENISON,
Chief Executive,
British Field Sports Society,
59 Kennington Road, SE1.
February 9.

From the Chairman of the Executive Committee, League Against Cruel Sports

Sir, Contrary to your leader of February 9, support for a ban on fox hunting is not merely a "modish metropolitan enthusiasm".

A Gallup poll published in November 1991 revealed that 77 per cent of rural residents would approve if Parliament outlawed foxhunting — only 2 per cent less than the nationwide support for a ban.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN COOPER,
Chairman, Executive Committee,
League Against Cruel Sports,
Sparling House,
83-87 Union Street, SE1.

Convoy lore

From Commodore Paul Branscombe, RN

Sir, I have been pondering Chancellor Kohl's analogy of a convoy (letters, February 7 and 9) and the general lessons that might be drawn from it for the European Community.

It was a deeply reactionary and prejudiced Admiralty which initially opposed convoys; proponents represented more dynamic naval thinking, backed by scientific analysis.

The convoy's speed was not itself the key. It was the ability to concentrate scarce escort vessels that proved decisive. Even then complete safety was not assured — serious losses still occurred in the body of the convoy as well as to stragglers.

Furthermore, the tragic scattering in 1942 of the Arctic convoy, PQ17, demonstrated the catastrophic result of panic decisions by top leadership in isolation.

Eurosceptics may like to recall that large liners, most of them proudly bearing royal names and America-bound, sailed alone at top speed and almost always went unscathed.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL BRANSCOMBE,
Ministry of Defence,
Quay House,
The Ambury, Bath, Avon.

Indian child labour

From Mr Kevan Bundell

Sir, Your report of February 3, "Drive to ban child labour makes India poor poorer", makes no mention of the main problem, adult unemployment. While children are weaving carpets in northern India, many of their parents are unemployed or under-employed, working only odd days as farm labourers or breaking stones in the quarries.

The South Asian Coalition on Child Servitude (SACCS), supported by Christian Aid, believes that it is child labour which triggers a cycle of illiteracy, indebtedness, indignity and poverty.

Adult unemployment leads to poverty; poverty leads to child labour; child labour results in lack of education and stunted physical and mental growth, which in turn lead to unemployment in adulthood.

This vicious circle is the reason why SACCS is promoting the Rugmark labels on exported Indian carpets. Contrary to the impression given in your report, we believe that the scheme can make a significant contribution to ending the abuse of child labour in the carpet industry and that it points the way to reducing child exploitation elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
KEVAN BUNDELL
(Senior Programme Officer,
South Asia Team),
Christian Aid,
PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.
February 7.

Floral tributes

From Mrs Rosemary Stevens

Sir, I would rather my nearest and dearest give me flowers while I am alive and able to enjoy them (letters, February 1, 8, 9, 15). On the occasions when I have visited my local crematorium and seen the masses of flowers laid out by the undertakers, I have wondered whether the recently departed had ever received such beautiful flowers during their lifetimes.

Yours sincerely,
ROSEMARY STEVENS,
48 Thurlestone Road,
Ruislip, Middlesex.
February 9.

Cricket dilemma

From Mr Jim Dutton

Sir, The dilemma facing the cricket authorities over the World Cup fixtures scheduled for Colombo (report, Sport, February 13; see also letters, February 7, 8) is in stark contrast to a somewhat similar crisis 27 years ago.

In January 1969 I had occasion as Acting High Commissioner to entertain to dinner some members of the MCC party visiting Ceylon (as it then was) in preparation for a Test series in Pakistan. Colin Cowdrey was the MCC captain and no doubt remembers the occasion.

After the meal we listened to a modest portable radio on which it was just possible to hear that serious rioting had broken out in Pakistan. Discussion ensued on whether there was sufficient potential danger to life and limb to warrant crying off from the next stage of the tour.

One of my guests, who shall be nameless, was particularly loath to go, and in the light of what subsequently happened in Lahore it is difficult in retrospect to blame him. But in the event the consensus was that the vital decision could be left to the authorities concerned, namely Lord's and our High Commissioner in Karachi, and all the party duly went, personal feelings thus being suppressed for the greater good.

History reveals that if the decision of the authorities to proceed with the tour proved to be mistaken, there was never, despite all the mayhem, any serious threat to the cricketers themselves. The worst personal injury suffered was to the personal pride of Alan Knott who was denied a maiden century by one run.

Yours truly,
JIM DUTTON,
Cockerhurst,
Tyrrells Wood, Leatherhead, Surrey.
February 13.

Business letters, page 27

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Many thanks

From Mrs Helen Corkery

Sir, Better late than never, a letter arrived this morning from a five-year-old, thanking me for a lovely Christmas present and wishing me a Happy New Year. Remembering that a round of thank-you letters is a hard task for the young I was much impressed.

Later I realised that it was a photocopy with my name added in pencil.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN CORKERY,
52 Harrison Close,
Woodlands, Reigate, Surrey.

هكذا فن الاجل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 15: His Excellency Mr Ronald Sanders was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda in London.

Mrs Sanders was also received by Her Majesty.

Captain Edward Macfarlane was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Temporary Equerry to Her Majesty.

Mr Justice Langley was received by The Queen upon his appointment as a Justice of the High Court when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Bachelor.

The Queen, Air Commodore-in-Chief, Royal Air Force Regiment, received Air Commodore Timothy Thorn upon relinquishing his appointment as Commandant General and Air Commodore Ian McNeil upon assuming the appointment.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 15: The Princess Royal, Patron, this afternoon visited British Universities Sports Association Headquarters, Union Street, London SE1.

Her Royal Highness, Chancellor, University of London, later attended a presentation ceremony for external students at the Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2.

The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London, this evening attended a Reception for external students in the Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 15: Mr William Tallon today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother when Her Majesty, on behalf of The Queen, decorated him with a Bar to the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

Mr Michael Sealey also had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother when Her Majesty, on behalf of The Queen, decorated him with a Bar to the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 15: This morning The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, received the Executive Director (Mr Tom Shebbeare) and, as President, Business in the Community, received the Chief Executive (Miss Julia Cleverdon).

YORK HOUSE
February 15: The Duke of Kent, Honorary Air Vice-Marshal, this morning visited Royal Air Force St Athan, Barry, South Glamorgan.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a concert in support of the World Monuments Fund in Britain, at Spencer House, St James's Place, London SW1.

The Duchess of Kent, Patron, UNICEF, this morning visited the Social Welfare Centre, Balhadi Lumbini Baug and the Lumbini Baug Municipal School, Bombay, Maharashtra, India.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Croydon, to mark the 400th anniversary of the Whitgift Foundation. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Almshouses Hospital of Holy Trinity at 10.45; the Arts and Leisure Complex, Croydon Clocktower, at 11.15; and Old Palace School at 12.30. The Queen will visit Whitgift School at 11.45 and will visit Whitgift House Care Home for the Elderly at 12.05.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Trinity School at 11.45.

Prince Edward, as Trustee of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will visit Consolidated Financial Insurance, Vantage West, Great West Road, West London, at 3.45.

The Duke of Kent, Patron, the National Army Museum, will visit the special exhibition "Bonnie Prince Charlie — Fact and Fiction", Royal Hospital Road, SW3, at 10.30.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at *Horse Guards at 11.00.*

The Earl of Warwick

A Memorial Service will be held at St Mary's, Warwick, on Monday, February 19, at 12.15pm. Travel Arrangements: A train departs Marylebone at 9.45am and arrives at Warwick at 11.36am. A coach will be waiting at Warwick station to take people to the church and return them after the service. *Parking is available at St Nicholas'* car park opposite the Castle Gates.

Professor Ernest Gellner

A Memorial Service for Professor Ernest Gellner will be held in King's College Chapel on Saturday, February 24, 1996, at 2.30pm. Those planning to attend are asked to inform the Vice-Provost's Secretary, King's College, Cambridge, CB2 1ST. Tea will be served in the Main Hall after the service.

Appointment

Commander Colin James Balfour to be Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire.

Today's birthdays

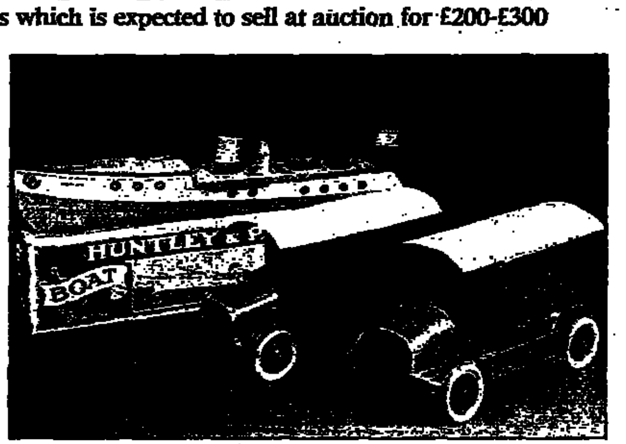
Mr P.E.R. Bailey, former director, Gatwick and Stansted Airports, 71; Mr Paul Bailey, novelist, 59; Mr Iain Banks, author, 42; Mr James Beaton, GC 53; Professor Robin Clark, FRS, chemist, 61; Mr Arthur Crook, former Editor, *The Times Literary Supplement*, 84; Mr F.G.R. Cuming, painter, 66; Sir Anthony Dowell, ballet dancer, director, Royal Ballet, 53; Mr David Emms, former director, London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates, 71; Professor J.R. Farndon, consultant surgeon, 50; Mr David Griffiths, portrait painter, 57; Mr Peter Hain, MP, 46; Professor Jack Levy, mechanical engineer, 70; Mr John McEnroe, tennis player, 37; Sir Maitland Mackie, former Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, 84; Sir Michael Milne-Watson, former chairman, BUPA, 86; Mr J.D. Moore, Headmaster, St Dunstan's College, 53; Mr Peter Porter, poet, 67; Mr John Schlesinger, film director, 70; Sir James Swaffield, former director-general and Clerk to the GLC, 72; Dr J. Tobin, anaesthetist, 82; Sir Peter Webster, former High Court Judge, 72.

ROBIN MAYES

An "Arcadia" biscuit tin from Huntley and Palmers which is expected to sell at auction for £200-£300

Tins that take the biscuit

MORE than 300 Huntley and Palmers biscuit tins, dating from 1868 to 1940, are to be auctioned at Christie's South Kensington on May 17. The collection, put together over 20 years, is expected to sell for more than £50,000, with individual tins making £2,000 or more. The biscuit firm's first printed tin appeared in 1868 when the company became biscuit suppliers to Queen Victoria. It was followed over the years by decorative tins for Christmas, sporting tins showing golf, polo, rowing and hunting, tins shaped like boats, tins with windmills and clocks, and tins that doubled as toys. Others featured children, flowers, birds, landscapes and even fire brigades. Famous people were shown, including members of the *Royal Family*, while other tins marked coronations and jubilees. A highlight of the collection are two model delivery vans, one actually loaded with tiny biscuit tins.



A mixed assortment — including a boat tin from 1920 with an estimated value of more than £2,000

Buckingham Palace *luncheon*

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday held a luncheon party at Buckingham Palace. The guests were:

Mrs Heather Du Quesnay (Director of Education, Hertfordshire County Council), Miss Patricia Routledge (actress), *Mr Lew Adams* (general secretary, Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen — ASLEF), Mr Fred Broughton (chairman, Police Federation of England and Wales), Professor Sir Kenneth Calman (chief medical officer, Department of Health), Mr Richard Eyre (artistic director, Royal National Theatre), Mr Edwin Patterson (chief fire officer, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service) and Mr Rodney Walker (chairman, The Sports Council).

Luncheons

HM Government
The Hon Nicholas Soames, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, and Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, were the hosts yesterday at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government at Admiralty House in honour of General Jean Boyle, Chief of Defence Staff, Canada.

Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce
Mr Ronald D. Southern was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at Painter-Stainers' Hall. Mr Mike Chapman, vice-president, was in the chair. The Canadian High Commissioner and the Agent General for British Columbia were present.

Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators

Examination results December 1995:

Abeyagoonesekara, R A; Abhayapala, A K; Adamson, R P C; Adekoya, O O; Adelaja, A O; Alcock, H J; Alexander, J; Allen, J M; Allsopp, N J; Amao, J D; Amerasinghe, F D J; Anteney-Hoare, N M; Armit, T; Arumugam, S S; Auw Chu-Chu, E; Bakili, O H S; Ball, J A S; Barrett, F M; Barrett, I D; Batchelder, T J; Bennett, T A; Bonner, F D A; Bowen, L; Bradbury, H J; Breese, S M; Brice, V L; Bridgemohan, S; Buckingham, L E; Bucksey, L F; Bunyan, A J P; Burrows, D R G; Busby, R; Ceraman, A R M; Chalk, J; Chia Lee Cheng; Church, L; Churchill-Coleman, W J; Cohen, M J; Collier, C L; Conlon, M T; Couturier, S; Cox, S A; Craddock, D; Crompton, J P; Cryan, J M; Cullen, L M; Curtis-Hayward, E G; Cusack, M J; Czarnetzki, D E; Dawson, H; De Motte, T L; Debrah, B A; Deely, H; Dickson, V; Dixon, O F; Dolan, P V; Dover, C J; Doyle, P J; Durber, S; Dyke, A B; Dzandu, P Y; Eastwood, J P; Ellis, S J; Faragher, J A; Faulkner, K I; Ford, C A; Gaisie, B M B; Gasper, S L P; Gilbert, D H; Gill, J D; Gillies, S M S; Gomm, J E; Goonetilleke, D J A; Gordon, R E; Gosling, G S J; Greaves, R C; Grimes, C; Grocott, C M T; Guilbert, C S; Gysin, C E; Haggerston, G S; Haley, S D; Hallgate-Hills, E A; Halsey, M J B; Hammond, A Y H; Hamon, J S; Hanna, B A; Hardman, A L; Haynes, L; Hazelden, K; Hickey, C; Hickey, L J; Hodgson, N R; Holdcroft, L N; Holdip, M P; Hope, T; Howell, C A; Hoy, D T; Hulme, S M; Hyde, L C N; Irwin, M P; Ismail, F A; Iyamabo, F E; Jagram, T; James, C A; Jarrett, M F; Jarvis, K W; Jeng, M R; Jolly, K L; Jones, I D; Jones, K L; Jones, R E; Jones, S; Juleff-Tranter, L; Kaushal, R K; Keaney, S; Kilgallen, S P; King, J; Kularathne, K S R; Kuti, O O; Lacey, M R; Lakidi, M A; Lawrie, E J; Lawson, N J; Lewis, B; Lewis, I R; Lewis, J M; Lewis, K J; Ling, E L K; Liyanaarachchi, C L K; Lloyd, A N; Login, B; Lyon, S R; MacAshun, R; MacQueen, A L; Maguire, A E O; Mahadoo, B; Maher, M A; Makuch, J A S; Mallon, P; Mamtora, K; Marsh, M; Marsh, W P; Marson, A J; Massey, K J; McMorrow, C A; McCall, M A; McEvoy, C B; McFerran, E L; McGonigle, B J; McGuire, J D D; McKenna, M; Mendis, D; Metcalfe, H E; Meyrick, H I; Mhaka, I; Miller, M M; Miller, T A; Morley, A S; Mudalige, S C; Mugenyi, J V T; Mugenyi, Y; Murray, H; Mutibwa, A M; Mwakamui, M; Myerson, J; Ndoro, M T; Neehaul, I K; Nelligan, T M; Ng'Ambi, T A; Nicol, E; Noronha, A J; Norris, T M; Nsiah-Boateng, J; O'Donoghue, P J; O'Donovan, M T; O'Sullivan, N M; Okuroummu, Y; Oldroyd, J P; Olinmah, M I; Onyeanusi, J J; Oree, M L A; Osborne, G A; Ottey, J; Oxley, D R; Pamayah, S L; Parkes, K E E; Peel, G R; Perera, M A; Perry, P K; Quarrey, R M; Ralston, P O; Ramsamy, T; Ramsay, M; Ranasinghe, C P; Randall, D C; Randle, A O; Rees, A J; Renault, C F; Reviakin, S; Rice, D M J; Richmond-Smith, C S; Riddle, J; Robertson, L J; Rothwell, N; Roussety, M N Y; Ruddick, H J; Salisbury, L Y C; Samah, E M; Saunders, M; Scandrett, A L; Searle, T R; Seaver, P J; Seddon, A H; Seneviratne-Studds, S M K; Shareef, F; Sherwood, K E; Shirley, J M; Smerdon, T L; Smyth, V J; Stanislaus, T C; Steers, M; Stewart, L P; Stone, R M; Stonelake, S C; Sudarshan, S; Syvret, R A; Tashobya, S; Taylor, A; Taylor, Y F; Teoh Koon Poh; Thomas, M; Thornton, A R; Toach, A R; Toudic, M J; Turner, S W V; Utuka, E A; Wardley, P M; Warfield, M T; Whiffen, R; White, J J; Wijeyeratne de Silva, S V P; Williams, A W; Williams, M J; Williams, R R; Wilson, J M; Wilson, W J; Wong Lai Han, S; Worthington, P F; Wyn, M; Young, I.

Service dinner

Corps of Royal Engineers
General Sir John Stibbon, Chief Royal Engineer, presided at a Corps guest night dinner held last night at the Royal Engineers' Headquarters, Chatham. The Bishop of Rochester, the Honorary Colonel of 71 (Scottish) Engineer Regiment (Volunteers), the Master of the Masons' Company, the Inspector General Training and the Engineer-in-Chief of the Polish Army were among the guests.

Dinners

British Academy of Forensic Sciences
Lord Williams of Mostyn, QC, and Miss Ann Curnow, QC, were the speakers at a Friends' dinner of the British Academy of Forensic Sciences held last night at the Law Society. Judge Ann Goddard, QC, presided.

Association of Consulting Engineers
Mr John Bowcock, Chairman of the Association of Consulting Engineers, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Mr John Armitt, Chief Executive of Union Railways, and Mr Christopher Martin-Jenkins also spoke.

City and Guilds College Association
Sir William Barlow, President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, was the guest of honour and speaker at the annual dinner of the City and Guilds College Association held last night at Carpenters' Hall. Professor Bruce Sayers presided. Dr Alan Rudge, Chairman of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, also spoke.

Royal Astronomical Society

The Royal Astronomical Society has made the following awards:
Gold Medals: Dr Vera C Rubin of the Carnegie Institution, Washington; Professor Kenneth M. Creer of the University of Edinburgh.
The Eddington Medal: Professor Alan H. Guth of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Middle Temple

The following have been elected Masters of the Bench:

Miss Anna Worrall, QC, Mr John Slater, QC, Mr Stephen Lloyd and Miss Belinda Bucknall, QC.

University news

Essex
Lord Slynn of Hadley has been appointed Visitor of the university in succession to Lord Templeman.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr J.S. Beale
and Miss C.R. Asquith**
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr A. Beale, of Poole, Dorset, and of Mrs L.S. Abbott, of Charlton Marshall, Dorset, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr J.S. Asquith, of Kyre, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, and Mrs J.G. Lawrence, of Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire.

**Mr P.N. Bradburn
and Miss D.S. Morland**
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs J. Bradburn, of Reading, and Sally, elder daughter of the late Mr E. Morland, and of Mrs J.E. Morland, of Macclesfield.

**Major A.T. Cayley
and Miss A.M. Matacic**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Granville Cayley, of Sompting, West Sussex, and Andrea, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mihovil Matacic, of Haverford, Pennsylvania.

**Mr T.J. Hamilton-Miller
and Miss N.J. Petre**
The engagement is announced between Timothy James, only son of Professor and Mrs J. Hamilton-Miller, of Twickenham, and Nathalie Jean, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M.B. Petre, of West Kensington.

**Mr A. Linforth
and Miss K. Baily**
The engagement is announced between Adrian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. Linforth, of Boughton, Kent, and Katherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.O. Baily, of Iden, Sussex.

**Mr J.M. Ormerod
and Mrs P.H.E. Gross**
The engagement is announced between John Ormerod and Pia Helena Gross.

**Mr M.I. Porter
and Miss C.M. Eltham**
The engagement is announced between Michael Ian Porter, of Moscow, son of the late Leslie William F. Porter and of Mrs Eileen Porter, of Bexhill-on-Sea, and Clare Madeline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John G. Eltham, of Cheltenham.

**Mr P.J.H. Ralls
and Miss T.A. Clark**
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mrs Sybil White, of Hanaper House, The Mount, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, and the late Mr L.J.D. Ralls, and Tonia, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.E. Clark, of Clareville, Sydney, Australia.

**Mr N.A. Sussman
and Miss M.L. Gordon**
The engagement is announced between Neal, son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Sussman, and Meg, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Francis Gordon.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Philipp Melanchthon, theologian, Bretten, Germany, 1497; Giambattista Bodoni, type designer, Saluzzo, Italy, 1740; Heinrich Barth, North African explorer, Hamburg, 1821; Sir Francis Galton, anthropologist and geneticist, Birmingham, 1822; Ernst Haeckel, biologist, Potsdam, 1834; Henry Brook Adams, historian, Boston, Massachusetts, 1838; George Macaulay Trevelyan, historian, Welcombe, Warwickshire, 1876; Robert Flaherty, film director, Michigan, 1884.

DEATHS: Richard Mead, physician, London, 1754; Lionel Lukin, life boat pioneer, Hythe, Kent, 1834; Elisha Kane, physician and arctic explorer, Havana, 1857; Henry Walter Bates, naturalist and South American explorer, London, 1892; Giosuè Carducci, poet, Nobel laureate 1906, Bologna, 1907; Leslie Hore-Belisha, 1st Baron Hore-Belisha, statesman and inventor of "belisha beacons", Rheims, 1957.

The first British cheque was written by Nicholas Vanacker, 1659.

The Athenaeum was founded, 1824.

Fidel Castro became Premier of Cuba, 1959.

The American nuclear submarine *USS Triton* set off on an underwater round-the-world voyage, 1960.

Diplomatic Service

Mr Robert Dewar to be Ambassador to Madagascar, from mid-April, in succession to Mr Peter Smith.

Mr William Fullerton to be Ambassador (non-resident) to Mauritania, from early April, in succession to Sir Allan Ramsay who will be retiring from the Diplomatic Service.

Mr Peter Smith to be High Commissioner to Lesotho, from early April, in succession to Mr Roy Cowling who will be moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Truly I tell you: if you have faith no bigger than a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move; nothing will be impossible for you.
Matthew 17 : 20 (REB)

BIRTHS

BATES - On February 14th, to Susan (née Thrush) and Tony, a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth, a sister for Rebecca.

BONEY - On 14th February 1996, Stephen and Julie were blessed by the birth of our son Nicholas Stephen, at St Paul's Hospital, Cheltenham. 23", 8lbs 6oz. "Yours is the earth and everything that's in it, and - which is more - you'll be a man, my son".

CLARKSON - On 26th January, to Penelope (née Taylor) and Roderick, a son, Jonah Drummond, a brother for Samuel, Conrad and Arthur.

HAMMOND - On 28th January, to Sarah (née Elliott) and Ian, a son, Thomas George, a brother for Emma.

KONG - On February 12th 1996 at Royal Surrey County Hospital, to Nicola (née Riley) and David, a son, Oliver Sanford.

PROWSE - On February 8th 1996, to Maryclare (née Cutcliffe) and Jolyon, a son, James Edward, a brother for Tom and Georgina.

RENDELL - On February 9th 1996, to Jayne (née Hamilton) and Michael, a son, James Richard Boyd.

ROWE - Judy. See Waite.

STANLEY - On 31st January, to Fanny and Shaun, a son, Theo Peter, a brother for Joshua and Isabelle.

URQUHART - On February 9th, to Juliet (née Ladds) and Murdo, a son, Angus William Alexander.

WAITE - On 13th January, to Judy and Bill, a daughter, Sasha Ophelia Rose.

DEATHS

BARDON - Eamon on Tuesday 13th February. Funeral Service 9.30 am Thursday 22nd February at Holy Angels, Ash, near Aldershot, Hants. Flowers to E. Finch & Son, Aldershot, Hants, or donations to St Bartholomew's Special Trustees.

BURROUGH - John O.H., CB, CBE on Thursday, 15th February. Much loved husband of Suzanne. Loving father, grandfather and brother. Private cremation. Memorial service to be advised. No flowers. Donations, if desired, to Moore Cottage Hospital, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

CANEY - Suddenly on February 11th 1996 in Pennsylvania, USA, Peter Richard aged 49 years. A much loved and sorely missed husband of Jenny and father of Charles and Alison. A great friend to so many people. Funeral Service planned for Thursday February 22nd 1996 in St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Sunninghill at 10.30 am. Family flowers only please. For any enquiries please contact Lines, Bannister & Co. Ltd. F/D. Ascot (01344) 20266.

CLAYTON - Gwendolen Mary, aged 91, peacefully in her sleep on Thursday 15th February. The funeral service to take place at St Bridget's Church, West Kirby on Wednesday 21st February at 1.15 pm followed by Committal at Landican Crematorium at 2pm. Enquiries c/o Quinns, West Kirby - (0151) 625 8274.

COOK - On 13th February aged 88 Sheila, widow of Bob and much loved mother of Patrick and Stuart, peacefully at Surrey Hills Nursing Home, Wormley, Surrey.

COURTENAY - Peacefully on February 14th after a short illness Margaret. Private family funeral. Donations if desired to The Actor's Benevolent Fund c/o Bradley & Jones, 7 Love Lane, Pinner, Middx., HA5 3EE. A Memorial Service to be held at a later date.

COXON - Dr. Mary Wynne beloved Mother of Sally, Sandy and Clare, died suddenly on Wednesday February 14th, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. Funeral Service in Exeter College Chapel, Oxford on Saturday February 17th at 10 am followed by cremation at Oxford Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations for Taylor House, Cheshire Home for Disabled Students may be sent to Reeves & Pain, 288, Abingdon Road, Oxford OX1 4TE.

ELLEN - Peacefully at home on 14th February 1996, Jane Elizabeth, much loved wife of Frank, dear mother of Chris and Shelagh, loving granny of Rebecca and Rachel. Funeral Service in Buchlyvie Parish Church on Monday 19th February at 2pm, thereafter to Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnottar, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu of flowers, if desired, to R.N.L.I.

FITZGERALD - Charles Patrick on 8th February 1996 died peacefully at Devonaire, Exeter, after a brave fight against many disabilities, aged 79. Leaves family and many friends who will miss a truly honourable and generous human being. Cremation at Exeter Crematorium on Tuesday 20th February at 4pm. Friends who wish to attend welcome. Flowers if desired or donations to the Parkinsons Disease Association. Enquiries to Mitchell Funeral Directors, King William Street, Exeter.

GODDARD - Suddenly but peacefully in North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple, on 10th February, Geoffrey Freeman K.C.S.G., aged 88. Much loved grandfather and great-grandfather, and father of Anthony, Theresa, Catherine, Dizzy and Margaret. Now re-united with his beloved wife Elizabeth, and soon to be granted Eternal Rest. Small family funeral at All Saints Roman Catholic Church, Hersham, on 20th February. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Wimbledon Cheshire Homes.

GREEN - Peacefully at home on 15th February, James Roger of Littlebrook, Lyonshall, Hereford. Most dearly loved Husband of Ann. Cremation private. A Memorial Service to be announced later. If desired donations for Lyonshall Church may be sent to Dawe Bros., 115 Westfaling Street, Hereford.

HANKEY - L.H.A. (Mark) on February 14th aged 87, beloved husband of Tory, son of Clement and Amabel, at their new home Mill House Nursing Home, Great Ryburgh, NR21 0ED. Cremation private. Thanksgiving Service to be announced.

HESELTINE - On 14th February, 1996, at Southampton General Hospital, William Wasney, aged 78 years. Dearly loved by all his family. Private cremation. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Lukes Church, Sway, on Friday, 23rd February at 12 noon. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to R.N.L.I. c/o Diamond & Son Funeral Directors, Lymington, (01590) 672060.

HURST - Robert Jack ex-Middlesex C.C. 1954-61 on 10th February, dearly loved husband of Eva, much loved by his son and daughter Mark and Karen. Funeral to be held at St Mary's Church, Old Town, Eastbourne, on Thursday 22nd February at 1.15 pm. No flowers. Donations to Cancer Research c/o Adela F/S, 45 South Street, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 4UT.

LOWELL - Caroline Maureen, peacefully in New York, February 14th 1996, much loved and greatly missed by her mother, Maureen Dufferin and her three adoring children, Evgenia, Ivana and Sheridan.

MANBY - Mr Robert Manby died peacefully in hospital on 12th February 1996. Much loved father of Christine, Melder and Quinten and devoted partner of Ms Colette Dumez. Flowers to John Nodes Funeral Service, 28 Station Terrace, Kensal Rise, NW10 5RP, before Wednesday 21st February.

MARSHALL - On Valentine's Day, suddenly but peacefully, in her 81st year, Mary, Lady Marshall of Leeds, eldest child of the late Robert and Edith Barr of Shadwell House, Leeds, devoted wife of the late Frank, Lord Marshall of Leeds, beloved mother of Angela and Virginia and loving granny to Annabelle, Goodie, Robert, Marisez and Pally. Funeral and Thanksgiving Service on Wednesday 21st February at Holy Trinity, Hollby, York at 11.30 am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only.

MARSHALL - Norman Bertram (Freddy) FRS., Emeritus Professor of Zoology in the University of London. Died peacefully February 13th 1996, beloved husband of Olga, greatly loved father and grandfather. Funeral 2 pm Thursday 22nd February, All Saints Church, Great Chesterford. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Schools Outreach c/o National Westminster Bank, B5 6BQ.

McMANUS - Victor, Journalist, at home, 10th February, Feast of our Lady of Lourdes. Husband of Catherine, father of Deirdre, Siobhán, Adrian and Julian. Requiem Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Wimbledon, Monday 19th February, 10am. Requiescat in Pace. Enquiries: (0181) 543-2366.

MORRELL - Douglas suddenly on 6th February in Portugal, husband of Isa, father of Colin, Marion, Raymond and Clive. Cremation took place in Portugal on 14th February.

MURPHY - Sheena Lesley Louise, much loved wife, mother and grandmother, who died peacefully on February 13th 1996. Funeral Service at the Church of St Mary and St Clement, Clavering, on 20th February at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to St Clare Hospice or Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o Russell Green Funeral Directors, 66B High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex.

PUTT - On 13th February 1996, peacefully in hospital, Alan aged 55 years. Much loved husband of Mary and father of Simon and Adrian. He will be truly missed and remembered with love. Funeral Service on 22nd February 1996. All enquiries to B.F. Mulley & Son, tel: (01708) 220330.

ROSE - Yvonne Valerie (née Evans) on 13th February 1996, suddenly at home in Painswick. Widow of John Donald Rose FRS, dear mother of Valerie and Anthony. Funeral Service at Cheltenham Crematorium at 12.30 pm on Wednesday February 21st 1996. Family flowers to Philip Ford & Son, Dirleton House, Cainscross Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire. Donations if desired to The Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

ROWE - Myrtle Sheila, of Westerham Hill, Kent, died on February 13th. Beloved wife of the late Peter, devoted mother of Bridget and her husband Jim, much loved grandma of Peter. Reception of coffin into St Mark's Church, on Sunday, 18th February at 7.15pm with Service. Private cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving for Myrtle's life at St Mark's Church, Biggin Hill on Monday, 19th February at 2pm and afterwards at the church hall. Colourful ties preferred. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to St Mark's Church, the N.S.P.C.C. or Imperial Cancer Research.

SABIN - Howard Westcott (Barrister) aged 79 years, much loved husband of Janet, dearly loved father of Clare, Philip and Jeremy and grandfather of James, Sam and Hugo and great-grandfather of Ben. A private cremation has taken place. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1 on Friday 23rd February 1996 at 12 noon. Donations if desired to a charity of your own choice.

SEDGWICK - On February 11th, died peacefully at home in Cornwall, Beth Mannering aged 80. Widow of Pat, much loved mother of Richard, David, Robert and Kate, grandmother, sister and aunt. The Funeral and Thanksgiving Service at Christ Church, Kilndown, nr. Goudhurst, Kent on Tuesday 20th February at 2 pm. All welcome. Family flowers only, donations if desired to National Asthma Campaign, c/o E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells. (01892) 522462.

SEYMOUR-PRICE - On February 13th George Philip (Pips), Air Commodore (ret'd). A beloved Husband, Father and Grandfather. Funeral at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Hambledon, on Wednesday February 21st at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired in his memory to the RAF Benevolent Fund, 67 Portland Place, London W1N 4AR.

SMART - "Ted" Edward George Smart passed peacefully away, after a short illness on 23rd January 1996 aged 83. Beloved husband of Doris and much loved father of John, Catherine, Anita, Avril and Andrew.

THOMAS - David Monro, on 15th February at Wallington, aged 80 years. Much loved husband, father and grandpa. Funeral at Cobham Church on Tuesday 20th February, at 2.30 pm. No mourning. Family flowers only.

TRIPP - "Geo" George died peacefully on 14th February in Exeter. Funeral Service at the URC, Southern Hay, Exeter, 2.15 pm on Wednesday 21st February. No flowers, but any donations please to Tear Fund.

TYNDALL - On February 14th, with great courage, Moo, aged 66, widow of Michael, loving mother of Christopher and Sarah, stepmother of Mark and Kate, and much loved grandmother of Edward, Henry, William and Claudia. Funeral at Chelsea Old Church on Wednesday, 21st February at 11 am. Private cremation.

WILLIAMS - Alice Esther (née Wilkins) passed peacefully away on Tuesday February 13th, 1996, aged 84 years. Funeral Service at Lodge Hill Crematorium, Birmingham, on Friday February 23rd, at 3 pm. Donations if desired to the Alzheimers Disease Society, Solihull Branch, Malvern Park Lodge, 22 Park Road, Solihull B91 3SU.

WINGFIELD DIGBY - Lydia. Aged 80. Peacefully at Eastbury House, Sherborne on 13th February. Private funeral at 3 pm on Wednesday, 21st February at Yeovil Crematorium. No flowers. Donations if desired to Glaucoma Association of Kings Medical Research Trust c/o W.S. Brister & Son, 100 Lenthay Road, Sherborne, Dorset.

WOODHEAD - On February 15th in hospital, David Hamilton MBBS, FRCS, beloved husband of Patricia and a much loved father and grandfather. Funeral Service All Saints Church, Wrington, Thursday February 22nd at 2 pm followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Ward 26 Fund, Bristol Royal Infirmary c/o Keith C. Britton & Son, Funeral Directors, 10 High Street, Yatton, Bristol BS19 4JA.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

PERCIVAL - The Memorial Service for Robert, formerly consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at The Royal London Hospital, will be held at St Dunstan and All Saints Church, Stepney, London E1 on Friday March 1st 1996 at 12 noon.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

WILSON - There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for Air Commodore Denis Aymard Wilson at 12.30 pm on Tuesday February 27th at All Saints, Crondall, near Farnham, Surrey.

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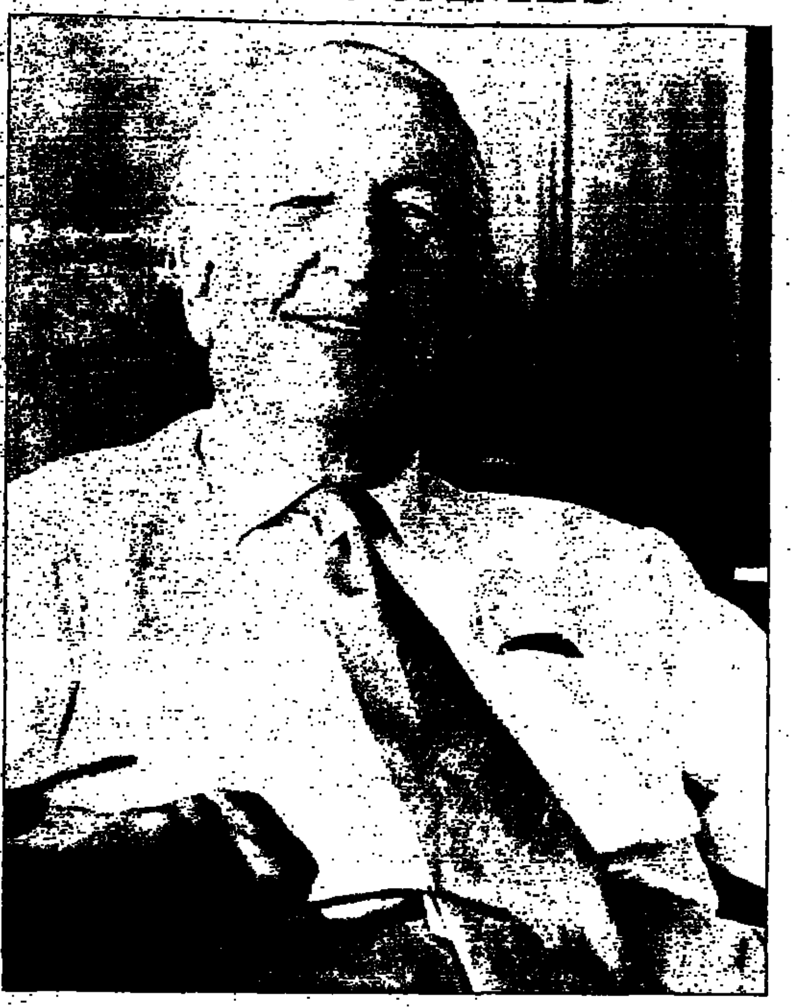
JOHN JAMES

John James, CBE, businessman and philanthropist, died on January 31 aged 89. He was born on July 25, 1906.



JOHN JAMES was a self-made millionaire who built from scratch two highly profitable businesses. His first was the Broadmead chain of radio and television shops, new outlets of which sprang up across the country during the postwar boom in the rental business. Then, having sold Broadmead in 1959, James started all over again with the John James Group of Companies, with interests in the building, manufacturing and investment industries.

James came to prosperity relatively late in life, not starting his first business until he was 40. Once he had made money he enjoyed spending it, and there were winter homes in Jamaica and Palm Beach, as well as a Spanish-style house at Ascot, set in 45 acres on the edge of Windsor Great Park. Plunging himself, as he did in his mid-fifties, into an entirely unfamiliar area of business was typical of James. He relied on no man's judgment but his own and, where some tycoons surrounded themselves with a protective layer of lawyers and secretaries, James preferred to do his own sums.

John James came from a close but poverty-stricken family, the son of a miner-turned-docker in Bristol, who was frequently unemployed. James discovered early on that he would have to find his own money for whatever he wanted in life, and he did odd jobs as a boy to buy such necessities as football boots. He was educated at Merchant Venturers School, getting there by winning a scholarship.

Lying about his age, he joined the Royal Air Force after school in order to learn about wireless, which fascinated him. In the mid-1930s he left the RAF to become a sales assistant in a radio shop in Bristol, before being called up on the outbreak of war, and serving as a radio operator. His prospects on being demobbed, with a wife and four children to support, were not good.

He had, however, been saving hard since he was a boy, and he used the money to open his own radio shop. He had on his side a boom in the radio trade, coupled with a sound knowledge of radio technology. He did his homework thoroughly, obtaining every available balance sheet of firms dealing in radio, and reducing their confusing columns of figures to simple arithmetic. Then he toured the country, studying the art of window-dressing, siting, stock and selling methods. He discovered that there was a better chance of selling a radio or television set in a constituency which returned a Labour MP rather than a Conservative, and that there were fashions in radios: what suited a worker in the Midlands would not go down well in London. James also realised that many people who wanted a radio already had a broken set at home. He offered them the chance to rent a radio set, if they would give him their old broken one, which he then repaired.

Within a year, James had a dozen shops in the Bristol area and, having bought the Broadmead Wireless Company for a few thousand pounds, Broadmead became the name of his business. Every weekend he asked for reports from his branches, and this allowed him to spot trends in different parts of the country and to switch stocks over the weekend in order to meet demand. In 1949 he drew up a ten-year business plan, at the end of which period he aimed to have one thousand Broadmead shops.

In fact, when he sold his interests in the Broadmead chain in 1959 for £5.8 million, he owned only 300 shops, though this still made him one of the biggest radio and television retailers. Broadmead was merged with the Firth Cleveland group of engineering, manufacturing and retail companies that year, and James was given a seat on the board. He did not need to sell, but the offer was a good one and he preferred to take the capital, and to face the challenge of starting out all over again.

His first instinct was to stick to what he knew, and to build another radio and television retail chain. Two things dissuaded him from such a course. First, the high start-up costs of kitting out shops with the expensive new colour television and, second, the decision of the Government in 1966 to replace investment allowances, for which James's business had previously qualified, with investment grants, for which they did not.

Instead, as his interest in the radio business waned, his preoccupation with investment grew. He discovered that he was a talented operator on the stock market, with a nose for a profitable share. This was fortunate, because his early years in another side of the new John James Group of Companies — manufacturing — were not a success. Appointing Sir Edwin ("Ted") Leather, the former Conservative MP, as head of the new John James (Industrial) in 1965, James had set about pumping money into small firms in the West Country, including a Worcestershire printing company, a steel office-furniture makers and builders merchants. Leather resigned two years later, after a disappointing performance from his division, which had been particularly badly hit by the slump of the winter of 1966-67.

However, James's new group of companies eventually found its feet, and came to comprise a dozen businesses, in the building, engineering, manufacturing and investment spheres. They prospered during the 1970s, and James sold the group, in 1979 for £25 million.

James never really retired, and he kept a close eye on the operation of the two charitable trust funds which he had set up to provide a regular income for projects in the Bristol area. He was known locally as a generous benefactor, as capable of giving modest but appropriate sums to particular hard-luck cases which had reached his attention as he was of writing a large cheque for a school. Education was a particular enthusiasm of his and he gave money to independent schools in Bristol to provide free places for children from poor homes. He also gave large sums to hospitals — £300,000 to the Harefield in Middlesex, £1 million for a scanner to the Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, £¼ million to the cardiac surgery unit at Guy's Hospital in London. He was appointed CBE in 1981.

James's first marriage to Mollie ended in divorce, and his second wife Margaret died in 1991. He is survived by two daughters, a son and another daughter having predeceased him.

THE REV DONALD HARRIS

The Rev Donald Harris, Vicar of St Paul's, Knightsbridge, 1955-78, died on January 20 aged 91. He was born on August 4, 1904.

DONALD HARRIS was a priest of considerable pastoral gifts that never perhaps found as wide a fulfilment as they should have done. Appointed to the fashionable West End living of St Paul's, Knightsbridge, when he was 51, he spent the rest of his active ministry there, retiring at the relatively late age of 73. A man of private means, he then went to live in a smart Westminster flat, where for the next 18 years he remained a generous and convivial host to his many friends. If it was not quite the culmination to an eminent career that many of them had expected — he had been Archdeacon of Bedford before moving to Knightsbridge — this was largely because he was wholly unmotivated by worldly ambition.

Donald Bertram Harris was educated at the choir school of King's College, Cambridge, and from there went to Haileybury. In 1923 he returned to King's as a choral scholar. Having trained at Cuddesdon, he served his title at Chesterfield Parish Church and went on to St Mary the Less, Cambridge, for his second curacy. He was appointed to the King's College living of Great Greenford in 1936.

While he was at Greenford, Sir Albert Richardson was chosen to be the architect of the new Holy Cross church, built (1939-41) next to the medieval church in order to cope with a vastly expanding population.

Harris moved to St Mary's, Bedford, in 1945 and was appointed in addition Archdeacon of Bedford in 1946. In 1955 Bishop J. W. C. Wand of London (a fellow Anglo-Catholic who was to retire later that year) appointed him to St Paul's, Knightsbridge, where, of Harris's two immediate predecessors, one had become an archbishop in Australia and the other an English suffragan bishop and then a diocesan one. Yet, for reasons that remain obscure, Harris himself — despite his long incumbency — was not even made a prebendary of St Paul's Cathedral.

His 23-year ministry at St Paul's was essentially a pastoral one. Princess Margaret was among those who sought his counsel, and with many of the men and women who came to see him he formed lifelong friendships. He was widely used as a confessor, not least by priests. He was a well-known conductor of Retreats and president of the Association for Promoting Retreats, 1968-71. From time to time he chaired selection conferences of ordination candidates.

He did not take kindly to some of the directions in which the Church of England was moving during the last part of his life. He always possessed a streak of impatience, noticed particularly when he was puncturing something he took to be pompous or over-formal. But he would not be impatient for long. A man of good humour, he was never difficult to amuse and he brought laughter to any social occasion.

Although he was mentioned in connection with one or two senior appointments, none ever materialised. This may have have been his own choice. On one occasion he was sounded out about allowing his name to go forward for a suffragan bishopric. He declined by return of post. He never allowed himself to ponder what might have been.

Although he grew increasingly tired, he was active until his death. At the time of the VE-Day anniversary of last year he returned to Holy Cross, Greenford, to preach a sermon he had first delivered there 50 years before. And his last visit to St Paul's, Knightsbridge, was on the second Sunday of last October. The present vicar, the Rev Christopher Courtauld, had invited couples who had been married at St Paul's to the Choral Eucharist that day: Lord Runcie preached, and Donald Harris was able afterwards to meet many of those he had prepared for marriage.

He remained the same to the last — making new friends, treasuring old ones and never complaining about anything. He always took pleasure in the good things of life, mixing particularly lethal cocktails that often sent his luncheon guests out woozily into the afternoon.

He was unmarried.

SHEIKH MUHAMMAD HAMID ABU AL-NASR

Sheikh Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr, Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, died in Cairo on his birthday aged 83. He was born in Manflut on January 20, 1913.

THE fourth Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, the most effective and popular opposition movement to Egypt's secular government, Sheikh Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr followed his predecessors in summoning his nation to the fold of Islam and the dictates of Islamic law. An Islamic theocracy, he believed, would provide a solution to Egypt's crushing poverty, ineffective bureaucracy and reliance on foreign aid.

Although sometimes criticised for the low profile he chose to keep as the Brotherhood's figurehead, Abu al-Nasr's dedication to its cause suited him to the role. His family were zealous Muslims, direct descendants of the prophet Muhammad and, at the age of just 20, he pledged his allegiance to the Brotherhood. From then on he worked for the organisation in various capacities, eventually being appointed a member of its founding body.

In 1954 the Brotherhood was banned by the recently-elected President Nasser after an assassination attempt had been made on him in Alexandria. In a move to suppress the Brotherhood, Abu al-Nasr was arrested and imprisoned. He spent the next 19 years in jail. But on his release, he steadfastly returned to the struggle to establish an Islamic state. On the death in 1986 of the third Supreme Guide of the Brotherhood, Ustadh Umar al-Tilmasani, he was chosen in his place.

Abu al-Nasr adopted his predecessor's non-confrontational, non-violent approach and under his leadership support for the brotherhood was, some say insidiously, built up. Significant inroads were made into the middle-class structures of the educational establishment, the professional associations, the media and the judiciary.

The Brotherhood under his guidance continued to reclaim Islamic law in a progressive manner. Social change was sought from within the current system. Though still technically banned, the Brotherhood was tolerated by President Mubarak as a counterweight to more extreme Islamic fundamentalist groups such as that responsible for the assassination of his predecessor, Anwar Sadat.

Under Abu al-Nasr's guidance, the Brotherhood won places in parliament twice in the 1980s when they campaigned for seats under the wing of legal opposition parties. Their slogan "Islam is the solution" stood out for its simplicity among a riot of more colourful campaign banners.

In 1993, however, the Brotherhood refused to ratify Mubarak's bid for a third term and by 1995 Mubarak had turned descisively against them. This was done partly with an eye to circumventing political gains which the Brotherhood might make in forthcoming elections in which candidates were to be allowed to stand as individuals.

But the Brotherhood was also increasingly becoming an umbrella group for more militant organisations and it was accused of terrorist links with extremist fundamentalists. Many Brotherhood members were apprehended and Abu al-Nasr was faced with fierce internal debate as youthful members of the organisation called for him to adopt a more confrontational stance.

Abu al-Nasr died at a crucial time for the Brotherhood, but the attendence of tens of thousands of people at his burial procession bore testimony to the respect in which he had been held. Delegations from Muslim Brotherhood organisations in Jordan, Syria and some European countries all attended.

He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

KEITH BRADING

Keith Brading, CB, MBE, Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1972-81, died on February 2 aged 78. He was born on August 23, 1917.

KEITH BRADING was a civil servant who developed over the years from an expert in his given subject to a great enthusiast. In a sense he was a man with two careers. From the moment his official life was over, he used the freedom given to him by his retirement to become a great protagonist of the ideas and principles of mutuality, especially as reflected within the Co-operative movement. It is doubtful if anyone in modern times has done more to try to make the ethical ideas and trading practices first pioneered by Robert Owen seem relevant to the modern world.

Brading was educated at Portsmouth Grammar School and on leaving joined the Estate Duty office of the Inland Revenue. The war soon interrupted what was already a promising career. Although thwarted in his ambition to enlist in the Marines, he was eventually called up into the Navy.

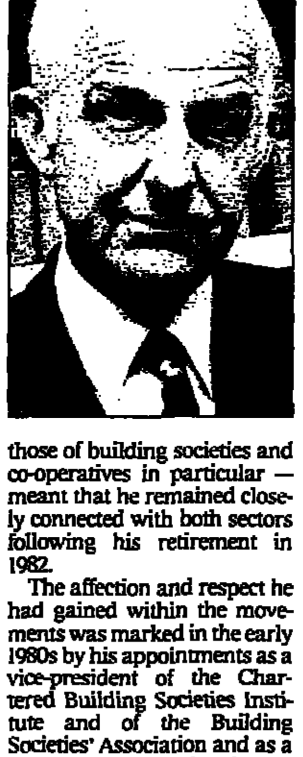
There, as an RNVR lieutenant serving in the vital role of a flight direction officer, he saw service both on Atlantic convoys and in the Mediterranean — but he also took part in some cloak-and-dagger exploits in Norway, where he became a liaison officer with the Norwegian Resistance. For this work he was awarded the MBE (mil).

In the Navy he also met a young Welshman, Bill Mars-Jones (later Mr Justice Mars-Jones), who encouraged him to take the Bar exams. This he did successfully and was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1950, the same year that he, slightly confusingly, joined the Solicitor's Office of the Inland Revenue.

He was appointed Assistant Solicitor in 1962 and, on his transfer to the Registry of Friendly Societies in 1969, became first Assistant Registrar, attaining the top job as Chief Registrar and Industrial Assurance Commissioner in 1972.

In these twin latter positions Brading quickly developed a thorough understanding of building societies and co-operatives which enabled him to act as a regulator of great integrity, while at the same time relating closely to the societies within his charge. His knowledge of the law relating to Friendly Societies and Industrial and Provident Societies was second to none.

But it was not merely a question of technical expertise. His enthusiasm for the ideals of mutuality in general — and those of building societies and co-operatives in particular — meant that he remained closely connected with both sectors following his retirement in 1982.



The affection and respect he had gained within the movements was marked in the early 1980s by his appointments as a vice-president of the Chartered Building Societies Institute and of the Building Societies' Association and as a president of the Society for Co-operative Societies (to whose journal he was a regular and valued contributor). He assisted several housing associations, in particular the Kensington Housing Trust, of which he was chairman from 1987 to 1992.

He was Chief Registrar in the late 1970s when the Co-operative Development Agency (CDA) was set up and he shared the disappointment of many when that body failed to realise the great hopes that had been placed in it. His dream — and brainchild — remained, however, the bringing together of all the disparate co-operative organisations under one national umbrella. This he achieved by two steps. He chaired the legal working party of the CDA Inter-Sector Forum and was determined not to let slip the first chance this century for the co-operative sectors to discuss matters of common interest, most importantly their biggest common problem — the archaic state of laws governing co-operatives.

He also played a leading role in the discussions which led to the formation in 1991 of the United Kingdom Co-operative Council (UKCC), which for the first time brought the various strands of the co-operative movement in one coordinated body. As the first chairman of the UKCC, he continued to promote the interests of the co-operative movement, his important contribution being further recognised in 1993 when, at the conclusion of his term as chairman, he was chosen as life president. He had been appointed CB while still in official harness in 1974.

He lived long enough to see the historic moment at the UKCC Council last November when the co-operative sectors agreed a detailed report on desired changes in co-operative law. One thing, though, saddened him in his later years — and that was the recent change in the status of building societies and their eagerness to become high street banks. He was due to have attended a meeting on the problems occasioned by demutualisation only a week ago.

He is survived by his wife Mary.

ON THIS DAY

February 16, 1955

In announcing plans to build 12 nuclear power stations, the Government stated that it was the intention to supplement rather than to replace other forms of fuel such as coal.

12 ATOMIC POWER STATIONS TO BE BUILT

£300M. PLAN FOR NEXT 10 YEARS

Plans for building 12 nuclear power stations during the next 10 years, at a cost of about £300m., were announced by the Government yesterday. It is hoped that building of the first two stations will start in 1957, and that they will come into operation about 1961.

The output of electricity from all 12 stations will equal the product of between five and six million tons of coal, and the cost of production at first will be about the same as at present.

The intention is to supplement rather than to replace other forms of fuel such as coal.

The White Paper points out that new technical developments may lead to more rapid progress than has been forecast in the provisional programme; on the other hand, the programme may be too optimistic because the stations may take longer to build or cost more than has been estimated.

Nevertheless, the Government consider that those risks must be accepted, because "the development of nuclear power has reached a stage where it is vital that we should apply it commercially with all speed if we are to keep our position as a leading industrial nation and reap the benefits that it offers."

It was emphasized by Mr Geoffrey Lloyd, Minister of Fuel and Power, in the House of Commons yesterday, that because of the nation's rapidly growing need for power, nuclear energy will supplement and not replace other forms of fuel; that coal mining will "remain one of the major employing industries of the country".

Although the decision to go ahead with a nuclear power programme does not depend on precise comparisons of cost, the White Paper shows that the cost of nuclear power should not be greatly different from the cost of power from coal-fired electricity generating stations. The demand for energy, particularly in the form of electric power, and increasing difficulty in producing the necessary quantities of coal, themselves would justify a great effort to build up a nuclear power system.

The stations will be built by private industry for the electricity authorities, who will own and operate them.

The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, as the only body with the necessary experience, will be responsible for giving technical advice on the nuclear plant. British industry and consulting engineers have as yet no comprehensive experience of nuclear technology. They face a major task in training staff, creating the necessary organization, and designing the stations.

The AEA, while giving as much assistance and advice to industry as possible, will remain primarily a research and development organization and will continue to design, build and operate pioneering types of power reactor—the "atomic furnace". They will also be responsible for buying uranium, fabricating the fuel elements, processing the used fuel and extracting from it the plutonium (a by-product of the fission process).

From about 1965, the White Paper suggests, it might be economically desirable to build nuclear power stations instead of coal-fired stations.

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THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16 1996

NEWS

Major backs ministers over Scott

■ John Major was last night standing by ministers subjected to sweeping criticisms of deceiving Parliament and undermining democracy in the Scott report on the arms-to-Iraq affair.

The Prime Minister let it be known that he had no intention of sacking William Waldegrave in the face of a finding by Sir Richard Scott that he had deliberately kept MPs in the dark about a secret shift on policy towards Iraqi arms exports. He was reported to be equally determined to defend Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General .... **Pages 1-3, 18, 19, 30-33**

IRA bomb snarls up West End

■ An IRA suspect bomb brought the West End of London to a standstill hours after the Provisionals' leadership confirmed that their terrorist campaign against Britain would continue. The device, in a hold-all, was defused .... **Pages 1, 5**

Survivor dies

Eva Hart, one of the last survivors of the 1912 *Titanic* disaster, has died at 91. Other survivors paid tribute to her determination that the wreck should be respected as a marine grave........**Page 4**

Heart surgery first

A medical team in Bristol has become the first in the world to carry out a two-stage heart operation which could spare thousands of patients the trauma of open-heart surgery.....................**Page 6**

Untraditional Lords

The first register of Lords' interests shows that they are more likely to be able to run an investment bank than call a pack of hounds to heel and potter round their estates ....**Page 8**

Magic moment

A wailing witchdoctor wearing a leopardskin brought Heathrow to a standstill. Chief Nicholas Gcaleka is here to hunt the head of an ancestor ....**Page 10**

Warming war

War will break out as global warming leads rival nations to fight for control of dwindling water supplies, a British climate scientist said ....**Page 10**

Rocket fizzles

China's 426-tonne Long March 3B rocket, carrying an American-made satellite, veered into the ground and exploded 20 seconds after lift-off.......................**Page 11**

Quis custodiet?

Almost the entire senior management of Morocco's customs office has been charged with fraud and smuggling after a crackdown on racketeers and drug traffickers ....**Page 11**

Yeltsin to run

President Yeltsin ended months of speculation about his political future when he announced in Yekaterinburg that he would be a candidate for re-election in June's *presidential poll* .... **Pages 12, 19**

EU investigation

The European Commission is hoping to decide soon about Michael Emerson, alleged to *have exploited for personal gain* his posting as EU Ambassador to Moscow .... **Page 12**

Bargain bonanza

The doors of more than 2,000 *shops in Dubai* opened for the biggest sale in the world, with compulsory price cuts of up to 70 per cent........................... **Page 14**

Skids under Samper

President Samper of Colombia is one step closer to impeachment after the Attorney-General charged him with drug-related electoral fraud .... **Page 14**

Dole on the run

Five days before the New Hampshire primary, polls show Steve Forbes plummeting while Pat Buchanan and Lamar Alexander close on Robert Dole....... **Page 14**

Love that dares not speak its name

■ One of pop music's oddest figures, the singer once known as Prince, but now only as an unutterable symbol, has married in Minneapolis. His wife is a Puerto Rican bellydancer, Myte Garcia. The exchange of vows was complicated: Miss Garcia had to point at a representation of Prince's symbol. The happy event was fully covered on the Internet........................**Page 14**

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Bruce Oldfield with models at Claridge's yesterday when he presented his spring/summer 1996 couture collection

BUSINESS

Economy: Cheaper mortgages and discounts in the sales forced inflation down to 2.9 per cent in January *from 3.2 per cent in December*. The fall reinforced hopes of another cut in interest rates ....**Page 23**

Rentokil: Shares in BET, the business services group, soared as Rentokil announced that it was in merger talks with BET......**Page 23**

Granada: The television and motorway service station group raised its stake in Yorkshire-Tyne Tees to almost 20 per cent.............**Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 34.8 points to close at 3779.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 84.2 after a fall from $1.5385 to $1.5375 but a rise from DM2.2597 to DM2.2617 ....**Page 26**

SPORT

Boxing: The British board of control allowed the cruiserweight title bout between Terry Dunstan and Dennis Andries to stand even though Dunstan was over the weight limit........................ **Page 44**

Cricket: The world once deferred to England when it came to one-day cricket. Now the pioneers are at risk of a mortifyingly swift exit from the World Cup .... **Page 44**

Football: Craig Whitington, the Huddersfield Town forward, has been charged with misconduct by *the FA after failing a drug test on* two separate occasions ..... **Page 44**

Athletics: Diane Modahl gave the first public indication that she intends to resume her international career when she ran a road race in Derby........................... **Page 40**

What if? The Almeida Theatre in Islington has mounted a stunning new production of Craig Raine's *1953*, which updates Racine's *Andromaque* to a hypothetical era when Hitler and Mussolini rule Europe ....**Page 33**

Awayday opera: It is, says Rodney Milnes, now cheaper to hop on Eurostar and go to the opera in Brussels than it is to book for Covent Garden...................**Page 34**

A disappointing diva: Amanda Roocroft, heavily promoted as the *new operatic star, failed to impress* at Wigmore Hall...............**Page 33**

Pop on Friday: David Sinclair charts the rise of Scottish singer Edwyn Collins and reviews new albums by Lou Reed and Maria McKee ....**Page 35**

Grey matters: Joe Joseph on why age has not withered feminists such as Germaine Greer, Shere Hite, Betty Friedan and Nancy Friday, but has made people warm to them as they grow old gracefully...........................**Page 16**

The green marchioness: Tracy Worcester, who last weekend led a walk along the proposed route of the Newbury bypass and regularly hosts eco-gatherings with Sir Crispin Tickell, tells Valerie Grove how she wants to change the world...............................**Page 17**

Jewish family matters: Rabbi Julia Neuberger on a survey showing that it is family background, rather than Jewish schools, which causes Jews to associate with the community in later life.......................**Page 39**

The play's the thing: How school drama and concerts improve pupils' self-esteem, knowledge and sense of cohesion ....**Page 39**

For the peace in Bosnia to last and to have meaning, it must re-establish a minimum of justice . . . Governments are mistaken if they think that they can build a lasting peace by drawing a line under crimes which offend against human conscience and the laws of war before the corpses have even been exhumed from the frozen graves of Bosnia —*Le Monde*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ **TRAVEL**
£10,000 worth of luxury weekend breaks for two to be won

■ **FOOD**
Frances Bissell on how to celebrate Chinese New Year at home

Preview: The comedy ensemble returns with characters old and new. *The Fast Show* (BBC2, 9pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss on a cacophonous foray into the insect world.................................**Page 43**

Round one

Ian Lang picked his way through the Scott report with the aplomb of one who had a map of a minefield that others — Opposition and press — could not yet have mastered. That advantage will not last for long. Sir Richard found ministers *to have acted like fools*. He did not, crucially, conclude that they were knaves...............................**Page 19**

Yeltsin again

It would be wrong to count on the incumbent's return. Western politicians must learn to work with whomever is elected in Russia: open backing for Mr Yeltsin may indeed be counter-productive in this nationalist age............**Page 19**

Floreat Serena

It is the gentle footfall of Gucci rather than the thud of Plod's size thirteens on Brighton's cobbled lanes that now strikes fear among *the town's villains* ....**Page 19**

SIMON JENKINS

Scott set out to build a *mountain* over a molehill. He abandoned all sense of proportion and adopted the mien of a self-confessed "naive" outsider ....**Page 18**

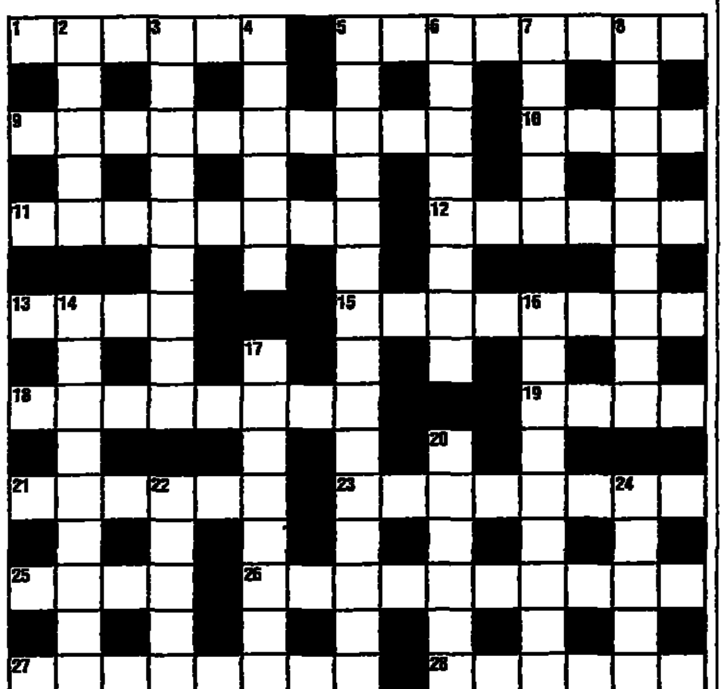
PHILIP HOWARD

"If we of the Church are going to network with and be a partner-in-change with other parts of society," said the slippery Slope, "then we must learn to speak their language of *management and share our own* theological jargon. Jargon after all is merely a way of e-mailing grid references for concepts" .....**Page 18**

John James, businessman and philanthropist; **The Rev Donald Harris**, Vicar of St Paul's, Knightsbridge; **Keith Brading**, Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies; **Sheikh Muhammed Abu al-Nasr**, Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood ....**Page 21**

Lord Jenkins on House of Lords reform; pregnancy on the NHS; alternative medicine ....Page

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,092



ACROSS

1 Some junk — it's cheap, tawdry art (6).
5 Want to mark the important place on map? (8).
9 Having lost a packet, he's a miser (10).
10 Sounds like postman? (4).
11 Working to a T ensures accuracy (8).
12 Depression as result of divorcing first husband (6).
13 Secure release of disheartened saint (4).
15 Game bird gets new home assembled on return (8).
18 What was made by Christian pair — a battle-axe? (8).
19 *People take part in contest* (4).
21 Thin lengths of wood coming to a point (6).
23 Way rhymes go round in time of need (5,3).
25 Cut reduced so sign on staff (4).
26 Go into detail about right for emigrant (10).
27 Incombustible mineral like tungsten extracted from gifts (8).
28 Speak earnestly and softly, and come across (6).

DOWN

2 Divine humour from Irish comic *heard on radio, initially* (5).
3 Hurry has spoilt barrelled beer (5,1,3).
4 Permits a number to go with expedition (6).
5 Aboard ship sailor smooths down bunk — that's standard (5,3,7).
6 Warning triangle set out (8).
7 Small character part provides relief (5).
8 Elevate film set and SF movie becomes *suitable* for screening (9).
14 A produce store set up in stronghold (9).
16 Common way to communicate official policy (5,4).
17 *Being so impassioned*, affected even them (8).
20 Bird and sheep frolic about (6).
22 Weapon left in general's keeping (5).
24 Greek story for Americans (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,091

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Times Two Crossword, page 44

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N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.14 am
Sun sets: 5.16 pm
Moon sets 5.07 am
Moon rises 2.30 pm

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FORECAST

☐ **General**: England and Wales will start cloudy. There will be some rain and drizzle, especially in the North and over western coasts and hills. During the morning, brighter weather will edge south with some sunshine.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be showery but with some sunshine. Showers over northern Scotland will turn wintry and more prolonged over the hills later.

☐ ***London, SE England, E Anglia,* Central S England, Channel Isles, SW England**: patchy rain and drizzle clearing. Wind west, moderate, becoming northwest. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, NE England**: patchy rain dying out. *Brighter later and mainly* dry. Wind west, fresh to strong. Turning colder later, max 8C (46F).

☐ **S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Central N**: rain and drizzle at first. Brighter with a few showers later. Wind west becoming northwest, fresh. Turning colder later, max 7 or 8C (45 to 46F).

☐ **Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland**: some sunshine at times. Showers, turning prolonged later. Wind west becoming northwest, strong. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth**: sun, showers. Wind west becoming northwest, strong to gale. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Central Highlands, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland**: mainly cloudy. Rain and sleet. Snow over hills. Wind west becoming *northwest strong to gale. Cold*, max 4C (39F).

☐ **Outlook**: rain spreading south. Colder with snow on Sunday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

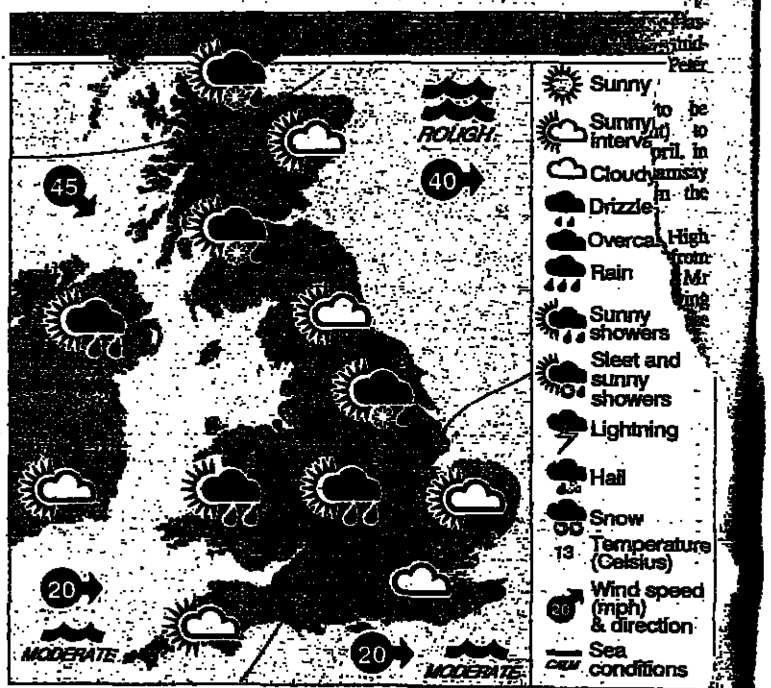
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.9	0.02	14	57	c	Littlehmptn	1.5	-	6	43	b
Anglesey	-	-	8	46	c	Liverpool	-	-	6	43	c
Aspatria	-	-	7	45	r	London	-	-	7	45	c
Aviemore	0.6	0.01	10	50	r	Lowestoft	-	-	5	41	b
Belfast	-	-	9	48	c	Manchester	-	-	7	45	r
Birmingham	0.1	-	8	46	c	Minehead	2.7	-	8	46	b
Bournem'th	-	-	8	46	b	Morecambe	-	-	6	43	du
Bristol	1.9	-	7	45	b	Newcastle	-	-	8	46	r
Buxton	-	-	5	41	b	Newquay	6.3	-	8	46	s
Cardiff	2.4	-	7	45	b	Oxford	1.5	-	7	45	b
Cromer	-	-	5	41	c	Penzance	8.0	-	10	50	s
Edinburgh	0.1	-	10	50	b	Prestatyn	X	-	6	43	c
Eskdalemuir	-	0.01	6	43	r	Ross-o-wye	1.3	-	8	46	b
Falmouth	8.4	-	9	48	s	Sandown	2.7	-	7	45	b
Fishguard	0.4	-	7	45	c	Saunton Snd	1.7	-	8	46	b
Folkestone	1.6	-	5	41	b	Scarboro'	-	-	8	46	c
Glasgow	-	-	10	50	r	Shrewsbury	-	-	8	46	r
Guernsey	5.3	-	8	46	s	Skegness	0.4	-	6	43	c
Hayling I.	2.5	-	7	45	b	Southport	-	-	6	43	du
Hove	2.6	-	6	43	b	Stornoway	-	0.03	10	50	d
Isle of Man	-	-	8	46	c	Swanage	1.7	-	7	45	b
Jersey	3.4	-	7	45	b	Teignmouth	5.1	-	9	48	s
Kinloss	0.7	0.01	12	54	r	Torquay	3.4	-	9	48	b
Leeds	0.8	-	9	48	b	Tynemouth	-	0.02	8	46	c
Lerwick	-	0.29	9	48	r	Ventnor	2.9	-	6	43	s
Leuchars	-	-	11	52	r	Weymouth	1.6	-	7	45	b

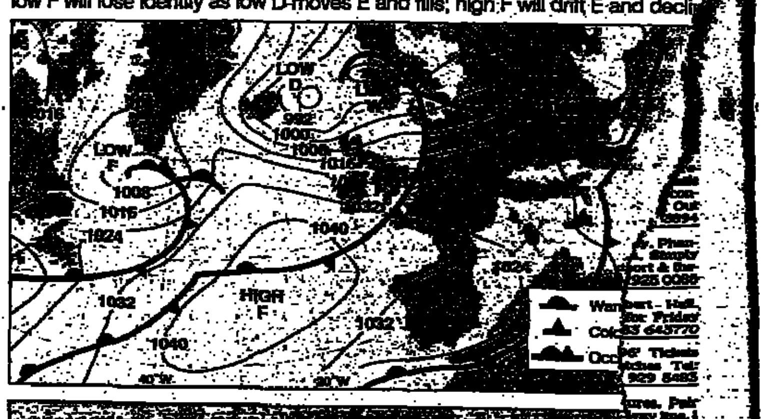
ABROAD

Ajaccio	13	55	s	C'phagn	-1	30	sn	Malaga	11	52	r	S Paulo	22	72	c
Akrotiri	19	66	s	Dublin	7	45	f	Malta	17	63	f	Salzburg	-1	30	sn
Alex'dria	18	64	c	Dubrovnik	8	46	c	Melb'rne	19	66	s	Santiago	33	91	s
Algiers	10	50	r	Faro	11	52	c	Mexico-C	20	68	s	Seoul	5	41	s
Amst'dm	1	34	c	Florence	10	50	f	Miami	23	73	s	Sing'por	31	88	f
Athens	16	61	f	Frankfurt	1	34	c	Milan	9	48	s	St'kholm	0	32	sn
B Aires	27	81	s	Funchal	14	57	r	Montreal	-11	12	-	Strasb'rg	3	37	c
Bahrain	21	70	s	Geneva	1	34	c	Moscow	-10	14	sn	Sydney	18	64	r
Bangkok	34	93	s	Gibraltar	13	55	r	Munich	-1	30	c	Tangier	13	55	c
Barbados	29	84	f	Helsinki	-4	25	sn	N Delhi	22	72	s	Tel Aviv	17	63	f
Barcelona	11	52	s	Hong K	26	79	f	N York	3	37	f	Tenerife	20	68	f
Beirut	17	63	s	Innsbrck	1	34	f	Nairobi	29	84	f	Tokyo	12	54	s
Belgrade	-1	30	sn	Istanbul	6	43	c	Naples	7	45	r	Toronto	-5	23	s
Berlin	-1	30	f	Jeddah	28	82	s	Nice	14	57	s	Tunis	14	57	c
Bermuda	11	52	f	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	2	36	f	Valencia	12	54	f
Biarritz	5	41	f	Karachi	X			Paris	2	36	s	Vanc'ver	6	43	s
Borde'x	4	39	c	L Angels	18	64	s	Peking	3	37	s	Venice	7	45	s
Brussels	1	34	f	L Palmas	19	66	f	Perth	37	99	s	Vienna	-1	30	sn
Budapst	-1	30	sn	Le Touqt	5	41	f	Prague	-2	28	c	Warsaw	-5	23	c
Cairo	19	68	f	Lisbon	9	48	f	Reykjavik	4	39	r	Wash'ton	11	52	f
Cape Tn	X			Locarno	9	48	s	Rhodes	17	63	f	Wel'ngton	17	63	c
Ch'church	16	61	c	Luxembg	0	32	c	Rio de J	28	82	f	Zurich	1	34	s
Chicago	0	32	f	Luxor	23	73	s	Riyadh	25	77	s				
Cologne	1	34	c	Madrid	7	45	s	Rome	11	52	c				
Corfu	14	57	r	Majorca	11	52	c	S Frisco	X						

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low F will move NE, then SE and deepen; low F will lose identity as low D moves E and fills; high F will drift E and decli



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM
London Bridge	9:01	6.1	9:50	6.3	Leith	10:12	4.7	
Aberdeen	9:06	3.7	9:34	3.8	Liverpool	6:45	7.9	
Avonmouth	2:07	10.6	2:51	10.8	Lowestoft	4:27	2.2	
Belfast	6:39	3.0	7:10	3.2	Margate	7:06	4.1	
Cardiff	2:17	9.7	2:50	9.9	Milford Haven	1:27	5.5	
Devonport	0:43	4.5	1:16	4.6	Newquay	0:40	5.4	
Dover	6:30	5.7	7:19	5.6	Oban	1:17	3.1	
Dublin (N Wall)	7:20	3.6	7:48	3.6	Penzance			
Falmouth	0:23	4.2	1:01	4.4	Portland	1:34	1.5	
Greenock	6:05	2.9	6:16	3.0	Portsmouth	6:47	4.2	
Harwich	6:54	3.4	7:39	3.4	Shoreham	6:39	5.2	
Holyhead	6:02	4.7	6:30	4.8	Southampton	6:10	4.8	6:48
Hull (Albert D)	1:08	6.3	2:11	6.3	Swansea	1:33	7.5	2:07
Ilfracombe	1:11	7.5	1:48	7.7	Tees	11:36	4.4	
King's Lynn	1:52	5.4	2:34	5.4	Walton-on-Naze	6:57	3.5	7:39

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Yesterday: Highest day temp: Aberdeen, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Wattisham, Suffolk, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland Islands, 0.29in; highest sunshine: Falmouth, Cornwall, 8.4hr

The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly.
For our 1996 brochure, call Bermuda Tourism on 01753 517 517 quoting ref: TWS or see your travel agent.